

The 18th Annual RaDAR Rural Dementia Summit

Final Report

November 20, 2025

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Canadian Centre for Rural
and Agricultural Health

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Welcome

Dear Summit Guests,

Our warmest thanks to everyone who took part in the 18th RaDAR Rural Dementia Summit held virtually November 20, 2025. We were delighted that over 130 people logged in to the event platform, mainly from Saskatchewan as well as from other provinces and countries. Of the attendees who completed an evaluation, 63% had attended a previous Summit, while 37% were new guests. Many participants had multiple roles, with the largest group of attendees working directly with people living with dementia in rural areas.

A major change introduced this year was a shorter daytime-only event. Feedback on the new format has been largely positive, with participants noting the length was manageable while still accommodating a variety of topics. Summit participants accessed 3 live sessions, 7 pre-recorded presentations and 14 video posters. Our keynote speaker this year was Dr. Kristen Jacklin from the University of Minnesota, a leading expert in community-based research with Indigenous and rural communities. Evaluations completed by participants revealed several highlights from the event including the positive stories from presenters and a broad mix of themes, with many enjoying the overall length and format of presentations, and being able to watch recordings at their own pace.

The Summit sessions featured novel research and initiatives ranging from the expansion of care farming in Canada to community-driven initiatives to support Métis people aging with dementia, how humour and laughter help create community, time perception and brain changes, mapping gaps in rural dementia research in Canada, and the role of the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan in funding and supporting research. Participants shared that research often focuses on major urban centers, and they appreciated seeing what is possible in rural and remote communities.

Presenters hosted live discussions next to each of their presentations throughout the event, which several participants indicated was one of their favourite aspects of the day. At the same time, we heard some participants miss the in-person element and that the quick pace and volume of information in a short span could be overwhelming. Future Summit events will continue to be hosted online, and we will be sure to consider ways to increase interactivity and time for breaks in a virtual format.

Generous support from the Bilokreli Family Fund since 2015 enables us to host the Summit without registration costs for participants. The funding also supports student poster prizes and a People's Choice poster prize, which was a new feature this year. We are grateful for the support of the Bilokreli Family, which allows us to bring together those who want better care for rural people living with dementia and their families.

In early February next year, we will be contacting everyone who registered for Summit and sharing a link to the 2025 event archive, which will include many of the live, pre-recorded, and poster presentations. The Summit archive webpage shares information from every Summit since the first in 2008 and is publicly available on our [website](#).

Thank you for another successful Summit!

Summit planning team: Julie Kosteniuk, Duane Minish, Allison Cammer & Mira Bisso

Summit 2025

The Annual RaDAR Rural Dementia Summit brings together people living with dementia and family members, front-line health care providers and managers, and other stakeholders including health authority representatives, researchers, and individuals from governmental and community-based organizations. The Summit is our team's key knowledge exchange event, where attendees provide feedback on new and ongoing research projects and learn about new dementia-related research taking place in Saskatchewan and elsewhere. **Duane Minish** directs the Summit organization and coordination each year.

The 18th Annual Summit was held virtually on November 20th. Over 130 participants logged into the one-day online event, which included a poster session and both live and pre-recorded presentations on a variety of topics and a diverse group of presenters. Attendees joined from across Canada and internationally from Australia, Malaysia, Scotland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. **Watch our website under [Previous Summits tab](#) for an archive of 2025 Summit presentations to be posted in February.**

Bilokreli Family Trust Fund

The RaDAR team is the recipient of funding to support the Summit and the team's activities, generously provided by the Bilokreli family. The family has an interest in supporting rural dementia research in the province, and we are pleased to offer poster prizes in their name to student trainees working in the field. An additional People's Choice Poster Prize was introduced this year, based on votes cast by attendees during the Summit.



Summit 2025 Bilokreli Poster Prizes were awarded to:

			
 Student Poster	 Student Poster	 Student Poster	 People's Choice
1st place: Andrea Johnson	2nd place: Kelsey Haczekwicz	3rd place: Haotong (Sophia) Wang	People's choice: Kristen Belza

Thank you to the Bilokreli Family for their support

18th Annual RaDAR Rural Dementia Summit

November 20th, 2025

Online Event



Thursday, November 20th, 2025 virtual event	
Time (CST)	Session
8:00 am - 8:45 am	Welcome to the Summit 2025 & Poster session
8:45 am - 9:35 am	LIVE Session - Summit Welcome and Keynote Presentation by Kristen Jacklin
9:30 am - 9:50 am	Pre-Recorded: Journey from Funding to Impact: How the Alzheimer Society Supports Dementia Research - presented by Kaleta Strain and Joanne Michael
9:50 am - 10:05 am	Pre-Recorded: Understanding the Current Landscape of Time in Dementia - presented by Natasha Gallant
10:05 am - 10:45 am	LIVE Session - Lived Experiences Panel Discussion with Merle and Carloee
10:45 am - 11:05 am	Pre-Recorded: Alzheimer Variants - presented by Andrew Kirk
11:05 am - 11:20 am	Pre-Recorded: Brain Health and Dementia Research Landscape in Canada - presented by Juanita-Dawne Bacsu
11:20 am - 11:40 am	Pre-Recorded: Addressing Dementia in the Community of Île-à-la-Crosse, SK - presented by Sarah Oosman & Joseph Desjarlais
11:40 am - 11:55 am	Pre-Recorded: Humour and Laughter: Creating Community in the Dementia Context - presented by Elaine Wiersma
11:55 am - 12:10 pm	Pre-Recorded: Green Care Farms: Canada's First Care Farm for People with Dementia - presented by Rebekah Churchyard & Jessica Zufferli
12:10 pm - 1:00 pm	LIVE Session - RaDAR Research Update Panel - and Summit Closing Remarks presented by Julie Kosteniuk, Megan O'Connell, and Allison Cammer.



2025 Map of Attendees

Summit Keynote Presenter: Kristen Jacklin, PhD



Our 2025 keynote presenter was Dr. Kristen Jacklin, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus, where she is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health, and Director of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team – Health Equity (MK-MDT). Dr. Jacklin is a medical anthropologist with over 25 years of experience conducting community-based participatory research (CBPR) with Indigenous and rural communities.

Dr. Jacklin's research pursues scientific questions that support health equity and employs methods that disrupt traditional power relations. Her work in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias has incorporated translational aspects such as cultural adaptations of clinical tools for use with Indigenous populations and translating ethnographic data into culturally appropriate health promotion materials. Her methodological expertise includes CBPR, Indigenous methodologies, two-eyed seeing, qualitative and ethnographic methods, and working with highly integrative research designs.

Dr. Jacklin currently leads three large multi-site studies on dementia in Indigenous and rural populations: The *American Indigenous Cognitive Assessment Project* which seeks to create the first cognitive assessment designed for Indigenous populations in the US; *Indigenous Cultural Understandings of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias- Research and Engagement*, a multi-site community-based ethnographic research study concerning Indigenous experiences and knowledge of dementia; and *Community Engaged Rural Dementia Research* to develop a robust program of dementia research with rural populations in Minnesota. Explore a complete list of her [publications](#).

Dr. Jacklin's keynote presentation focused on the development of the University of Minnesota Medical School's Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, highlighting their mission to engage Indigenous and rural communities in culturally meaningful research to improve dementia and brain health outcomes. She emphasized the Team's community-based research approach to create knowledge for action by building sustainable partnerships with community partners. Her presentation offered an overview of the rural dementia research landscape in Minnesota and the United States more broadly. Dr. Jacklin also shared findings and key takeaways from multiple *Community Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimer's Research* (CERDAR) pilot projects, which have laid the groundwork for several community-led rural dementia interventions in CERDAR 2.0.

Live Sessions

Lived Experiences Panel Discussion



Merle joined Carolee from the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan to discuss Merle's experience caring for her husband who was affected by dementia.

“Community of support is just huge, it takes a community to help somebody with Alzheimer's.”

Merle

“After receiving the diagnosis, it was a mixed feeling (thinking) we have a long journey ahead of us and we're going to need some resources.”

Merle

“I am the First Link Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society of Saskatchewan resource centre and I have been doing this job for three years, and I provide support to people living with dementia and their care partners in Yorkton and surrounding communities.”

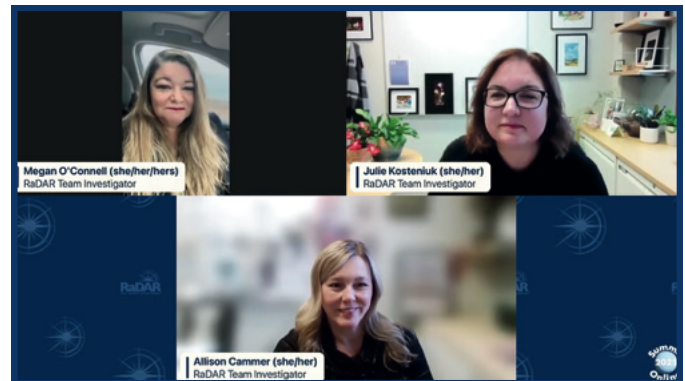
Carolee

RaDAR Research Update Panel and Summit Closing Remarks

Presented by **Julie Kosteniuk, Megan O'Connell, and Allison Cammer, University of Saskatchewan**

“We have been co-designing this intervention based on interpersonal therapy, but put into accessible words easily used by people who don't have any psychological training, and includes a website and a series of podcasts.”

Megan O'Connell



“The purpose of the memory clinics is to provide inter-professional team-based diagnosis and management of suspected dementia for rural individuals right in their local communities.”

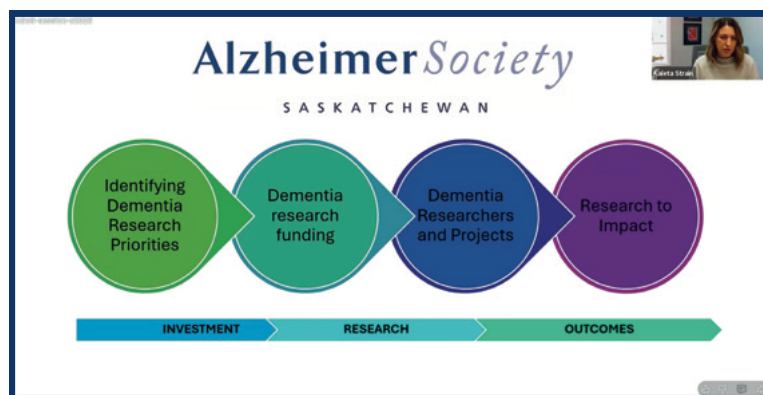
Julie Kosteniuk

“The Cognitive Kitchen is a co-designed culinary nutrition program to support caregivers of persons with dementia and older adults affected by dementia.”

Allison Cammer

Pre-recorded Sessions

Journey from Funding to Impact: How the Alzheimer Society supports Dementia Research Co-presented by Kaleta Strain and Joanne Michael, Alzheimer's Society of Saskatchewan



“The study relating to the development of a telehealth videoconferencing support group has become the model we have adopted for the delivery of all our virtual support groups.”

Joanne Michael

“Study shows that over the next 30 years, the number of people living with dementia in Saskatchewan will more than double.”

Kaleta Strain

Understanding the Current Landscape of Time in Dementia Presented by Natasha Gallant, University of Regina

“A lot of emerging evidence suggests that people living with dementia experience memory loss along with distortions in time perception.”

Natasha Gallant

What do these findings mean?

- If people living with dementia experience time differently, we need to begin to accommodate for these differences in dementia-friendly initiatives to improve well-being for this population.
- We also need to begin to think about time outside of the strict, linear, and quantified concepts of normative time to foster a more compassionate and empathic understanding of time in dementia in our society.

Alzheimer Variants

Presented by **Andrew Kirk**, University of Saskatchewan

Case Study – THE TEACHER WHO COULDN'T PUT BOOKS AWAY
Initial Visit

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

- 66-year-old woman, retired teacher x 8 years, lives with husband. Lifelong avid reader.
- 10 years ago – noted difficulty filing books on shelves at work as had trouble reading numbers on spines. Became harder to read large print, e.g., could better make out headline on husband's section of paper across the room than the headline on the section she was holding.
- Reading gradually became more difficult. Now unable.
- Harder to see things on left.

Clinical Presentation
Medical History
Clinical Assessment
Patient Management

“What we will talk about today is variants of Alzheimer's disease, so not the usual amnesic form of Alzheimer's disease that presents mostly with memory problems early on and progresses. We are going to talk about different presentations of Alzheimer's disease.”

Andrew Kirk

Pre-recorded Sessions

Brain Health and Dementia Research Landscape in Canada

Presented by **Juanita-Dawne Bacsu**, Thompson Rivers University

“Based on our research findings, these 8 priorities highlight actionable areas for addressing the pressing needs to improve dementia and brain health.”

Juanita Bacsu




Addressing Dementia in the Community of Île-à-la-Crosse, SK

Presented by **Sarah Oosman & Joseph Desjarlais**, University of Saskatchewan

Project Purpose

To enhance quality of life of Métis people aging with dementia, and their families/caregivers, through social inclusion in the Métis community of Île à la Crosse.



Objectives

1. To educate, build awareness, and reduce stigma around dementia within the Métis community of Île-à-la-Crosse including signs to be aware of, how to act, what to do, and what to say to be helpful to individuals who are aging with dementia.
2. To create community-driven, intergenerational pathways (activities & events) for engaging and supporting people aging with dementia that align with Métis community practices.
3. To create an outline/plan that will inform the future development of a Métis-driven sustainability plan for dementia support in the community of Île-à-la-Crosse.

“A long-term plan for sustainable support for dementia care in the Community of Île-à-la-Crosse is the ultimate goal.”

Sarah Oosman

Green Care Farms: Canada's First Care Farm for People with Dementia

Presented by **Rebekah Churchyard & Jessica Zufferli**, Green Care Farms, Canada

“Green Care Farms give people with dementia a chance to continue doing work they enjoy safely. It is programming that keeps people with dementia well physically, socially, and emotionally.”

Rebekah Churchyard



Pre-recorded Sessions

Humour and Laughter: Creating Community in the Dementia Context

Presented by **Elaine Wiersma**, Lakehead University

“Humour and laughter are foundational to connecting with each other... it helps people maintain active roles, affirms people's identities, reduces stress, transcends cognitive challenges, and really brings people together in some really fundamental ways.”

Elaine Wiersma

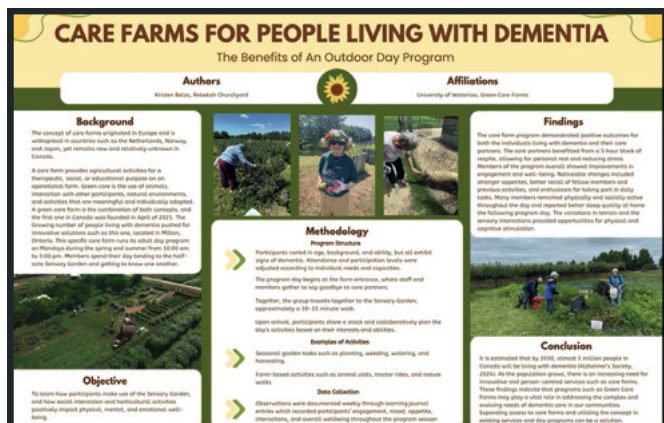


Poster Session



From Diagnosis to Direction: Navigating Rural Primary Care Memory Clinics

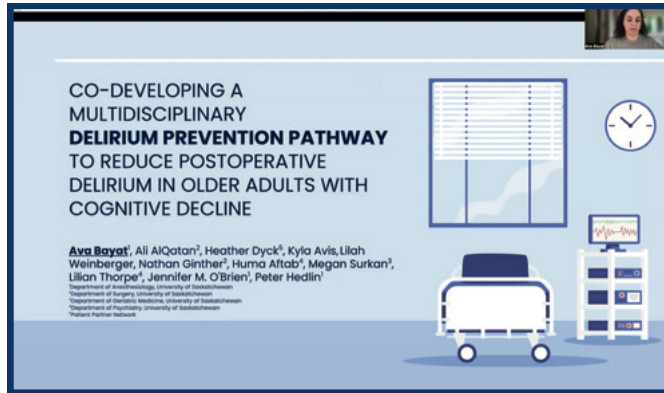
Presenters: Heather Alford & Amanda Dupperon
University of Saskatchewan



Care Farms for people living with dementia: The benefits of an Outdoor Day Program

Presenter: Kristen Belza
University of Waterloo

Poster Session



Co-developing a multidisciplinary delirium prevention pathway to reduce postoperative delirium in older adults with cognitive frailty

Presenter: Ava Bayat
University of Saskatchewan



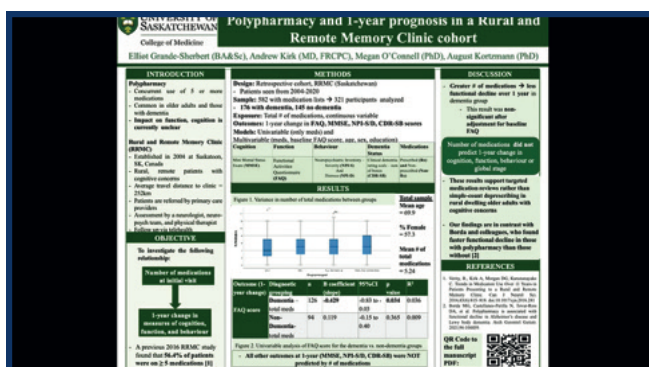
Exploring the perspectives of community-dwelling patients and care partners receiving nutrition care in a rural primary care memory clinic: Preliminary findings

Presenter: Baylee Cresswell
University of Saskatchewan



Green Care Laurentians: Cultivating well-being and cognitive health through nature and gardening

Presenter: Catherine Girard
Université du Québec à Montréal



Polypharmacy and 1-year prognosis in a Rural and Remote Memory Clinic cohort

Presenter: Elliot Grande-Sherbert
University of Saskatchewan

Poster Session



SPA-LTC: Strengthening a palliative approach to Long-Term

Presenter: Kelsey Haczekwicz
University of Regina



Nature-based dementia care: good practice principles guide

Presenter: Anthea Innes
University of Highlands and Islands, Scotland



Agency over ageism: Music participation for people living with dementia

Presenter: Andrea Johnson
University of Saskatchewan



Evaluating the Development and Implementation of the Dietitian Role on Rural Primary Care Memory Clinic Teams

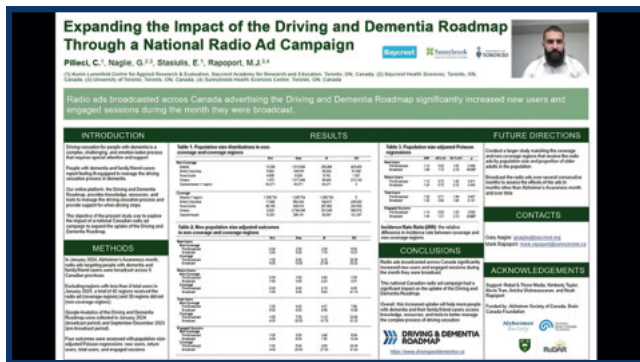
Presenter: Thera Kusch
University of Saskatchewan

Poster Session



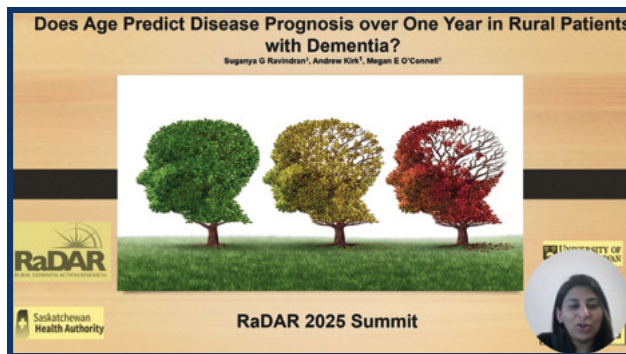
Co-Designing a food literacy workshop series for rural, older adults in Saskatchewan: A research proposal

Presenter: Erin Leeder
University of Saskatchewan



Expanding the impact of the Driving and Dementia Roadmap through a national radio ad campaign

Presenter: Christopher Pilieci
Baycrest Health Sciences



Does age predict disease prognosis over one year in rural patients with dementia

Presenter: Suganya Giri Ravindran
University of Saskatchewan



Does social media improve Saskatoon seniors' psychological and cognitive wellbeing: A pre-pandemic inquiry

Presenter: Haotong (Sophia) Wang
University of Saskatchewan

Summit Evaluation



Attendees Roles

I'm a family member of someone with dementia

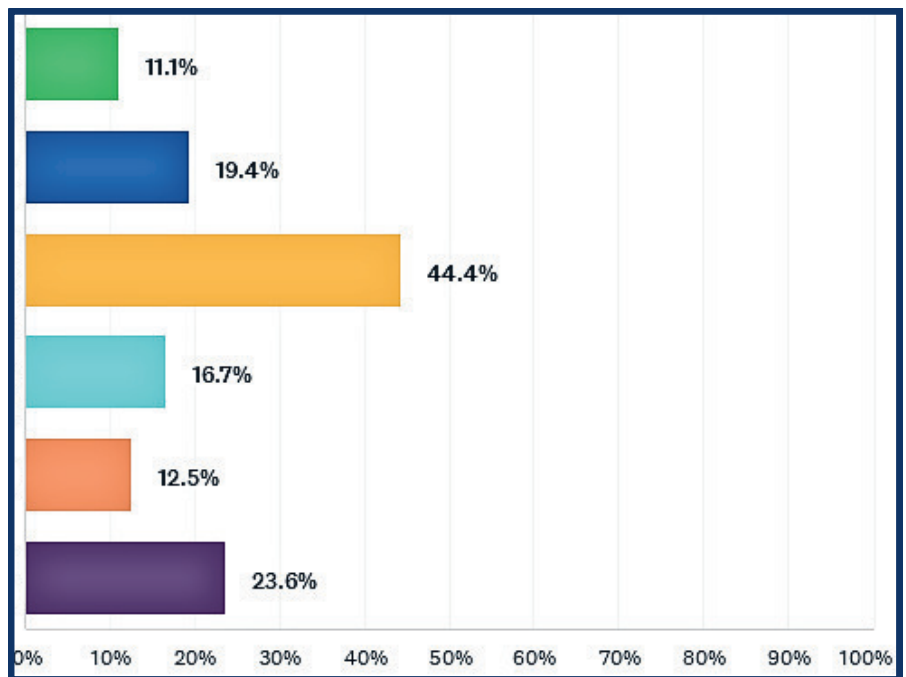
I'm a researcher in the field

I work directly with people with dementia in rural areas

I work directly with people with dementia in urban areas

I'm a student

*Other



n=15 *Other

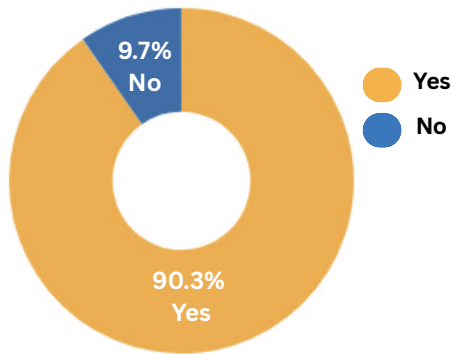
- Develop programs for people living with dementia
- Policy and legislation
- RN/manager who has worked with people with dementia for many years
- First Link Coordinator
- Neurology Resident
- Administrative role
- Work directly with people with dementia in rural and urban areas
- Pan-Canadian Non-Profit Organization
- KT specialist
- Indirect service delivery

Summit Evaluation

Poster Session

Poster Session - Feedback

Attended Poster Session?



"Lots of diverse topics - liked that there was a lot of local content, but also an opportunity to see what other areas of the country are doing."

"I enjoyed the recorded aspect, it allows me to listen more than once before engaging in the chat with the presenters."

"I love all the innovative ideas and seeing the research."

"There is a significant amount of relevant and important research being done in Saskatchewan and elsewhere."

"It really highlights the work being done in a quick way that I know where to go to learn more when it's applicable to me."

"I would love to build local programs that incorporate humour/laughter/culture/outdoors/gardening etc."

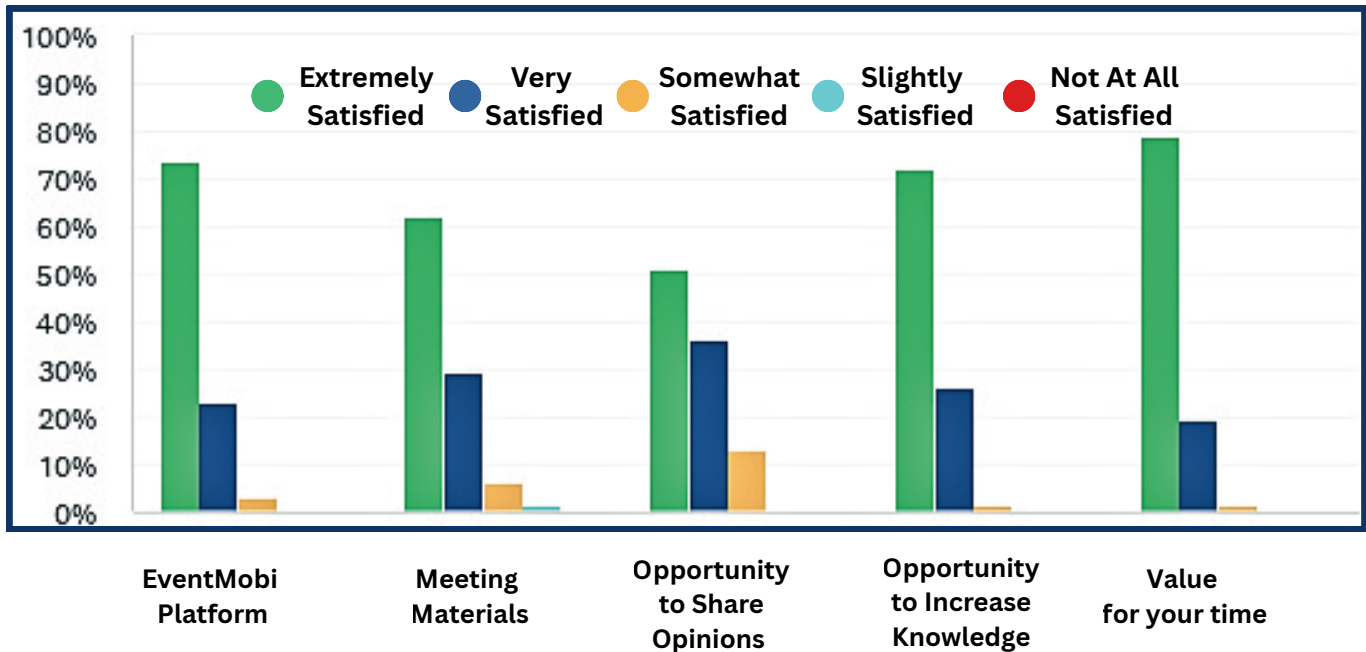
"It has brought forward some ideas to explore locally (ex. a care farm). As a dietitian I will also continue to look into the nutrition research and how these findings may impact my own practice."

"This summit will heavily inform our older adult programming and the focus on dementia learnings."

"The element of Summit I liked the most was the live presentation by the spouse of caring for a person with dementia. I felt like it was my own situation."

Summit Evaluation

Summit Impact and Opinion



"I've attended many virtual conferences, and this was by far the most interactive and user-friendly. It was easy to connect with others and stay informed about what sessions were going on."

"Sharing of information, interactive, yet can learn at a distance. Connect across country and world."

"Updates about local research and opportunities to interact with researchers. No barrier to attending due to no registration fee."

"It's a reminder that we are all working in different ways, to the same goal-care and support for PLWD and their caregivers."

"A sense for what is possible in rural and remote communities. Often cities (especially University cities) end up being the research focus so that chance to see opportunities beyond major centers is so important."

"I shared information from the summit with the manager of the unit where my husband is a resident. She was not aware of this excellent learning opportunity."

"Generated ideas for possible implementation - Brain Train presentation, Dementia Cafe."

"Dr Kirk is always fantastic. Keynote speaker was amazing. I love seeing the indigenous issues included this year."

"All the presenters and materials are very relevant and it is amazing how much could be covered in the amount of time. Virtual truly opens up the opportunity to attend without actual outlaying costs opening it up to many."

