



1<sup>st</sup> World Congress on Healthy Ageing, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**ABSTRACT 152**

**Title: The Effect of Coresidence with an Adult Child on Depressive Symptoms among Older Widowed Women in South Korea: An Instrumental Variables Estimation**

Authors: Young Kyung Do, Chetna Malhotra

Institution: Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Key words: Living arrangements, Instrumental variables, Depression

**Objective:** To estimate the causal effect of coresidence with an adult child on depressive symptoms among older widowed women in South Korea.

**Methods:** Data from the first (2006) and second (2008) waves of the Korea Longitudinal Study of Ageing were used. The analysis was restricted to widowed women aged  $\geq 65$  years with at least one living child (N=2,446). We used an instrumental variables estimation exploiting two child characteristics as instrumental variables (the number of sons and whether the eldest child is a daughter). Specification tests for instrumental variables showed that these instruments predict the probability of an elderly woman's coresidence with an adult child but do not directly affect depressive symptoms.

**Results:** Our instrumental variables two-stage least squares estimator suggested that coresidence with an adult child has a protective effect on depressive symptoms among older widowed women in South Korea. Coresidence was found to be endogenous in our statistical model of depressive symptoms.

**Discussion:** The instrumental variables estimation method can be a useful approach to addressing the potential endogeneity between intergenerational coresidence and elderly health. Rapidly decreasing rates of intergenerational coresidence may raise public health concerns among older widowed women in South Korea.