# Sleep, circadian rhythms, and cognitive function



Rebecca M. C. Spencer, PhD Associate Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences

## Disclosures

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#### • Conflicts of interest:

• National Institute on Aging and University of Massachusetts funds contributed directly to the work presented in this talk.

Sleep impairments are prevalent in normal aging

Significance



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- Sleep impairments are prevalent in normal aging
- Cognitive impairments (e.g., long-term memory, executive functions) are prevalent as well
- Parallel trajectories with aging and evidence from young adults suggest that age-related changes in sleep and cognition may be related

#### State-of-the-art knowledge

### Chronotype changes with age



## Shift in chronotype affects performance



## Sleep also contributes to cognitive performance



**Older adult** 



## Sleep benefits cognition in young adults



#### State-of-the-art knowledge

### Sleep benefits cognition in young adults



### Sleep benefits cognition in young adults

- Correlations between slow wave sleep (SWS) and change in declarative memory over sleep
- Parahippocampal gyrus activity during SWS





#### **Declarative memories**



#### State-of-the-art knowledge

### Mood regulation and emotional processing



### Procedural/skill memories



## **Sleep contributes to cognitive performance**



Do changes in sleep change the function of sleep on cognition?

### Is sleep-dependent cognitive processing reduced with age?



Consolidation of positive memories is preserved negative memories is absent

 What are the implications of the deficit in procedural memory consolidation?



Knowledge gaps



- Research opportunities
- Would an intervention to improve sleep (CBT, nap intervention) improve cognitive processing?





## Thank you.



#### rspencer@umass.edu

#### Is sleep-dependent cognitive processing reduced with age?

... it depends

