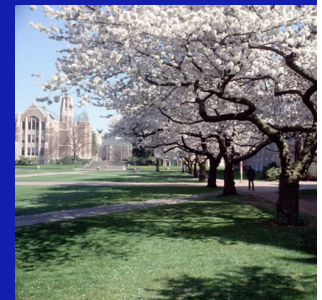


Using Causal Modeling to Predict the Impact of Caregiving on Depression among Elderly Taiwanese

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Acknowledgements

- Committee members:
 - Dr. Karen Schepp
 - Dr. Ruth Craven
 - Dr. Debbie Ward
- de Tornyay Center for Healthy Aging
- Hester McLaws Nursing Scholarship

Problem

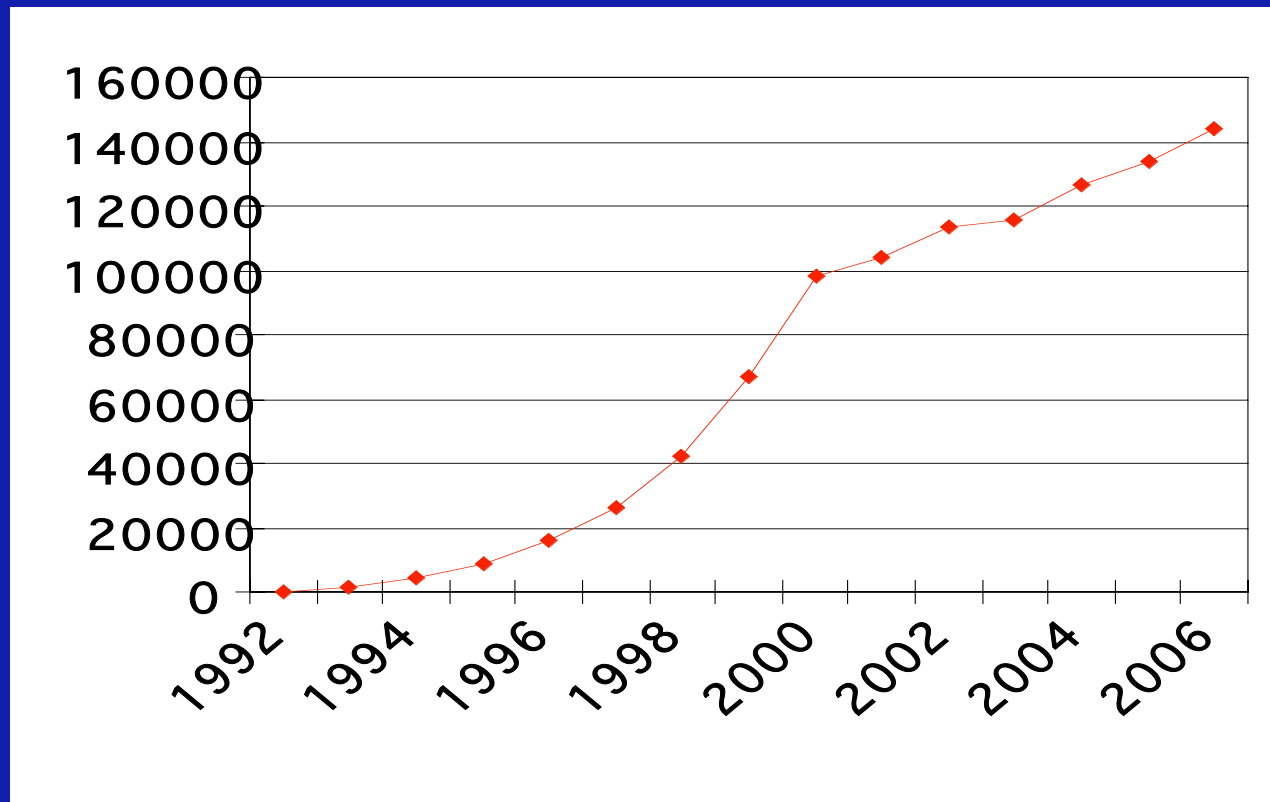
Depression

1. Prevalence rate among elderly in Taiwan: 12.9% – 21.7% (Kaohsiung Medical University, 2000)
2. Poor communication, poor functional ability, and less social support were found to be factors influencing elderly in becoming depressed.

This research targeted Taiwanese elderly who are cared for by foreign caregivers to identify predictors of depression among them

Problem (Cont.)

Caregiving: Foreign Caregivers



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Research Purpose

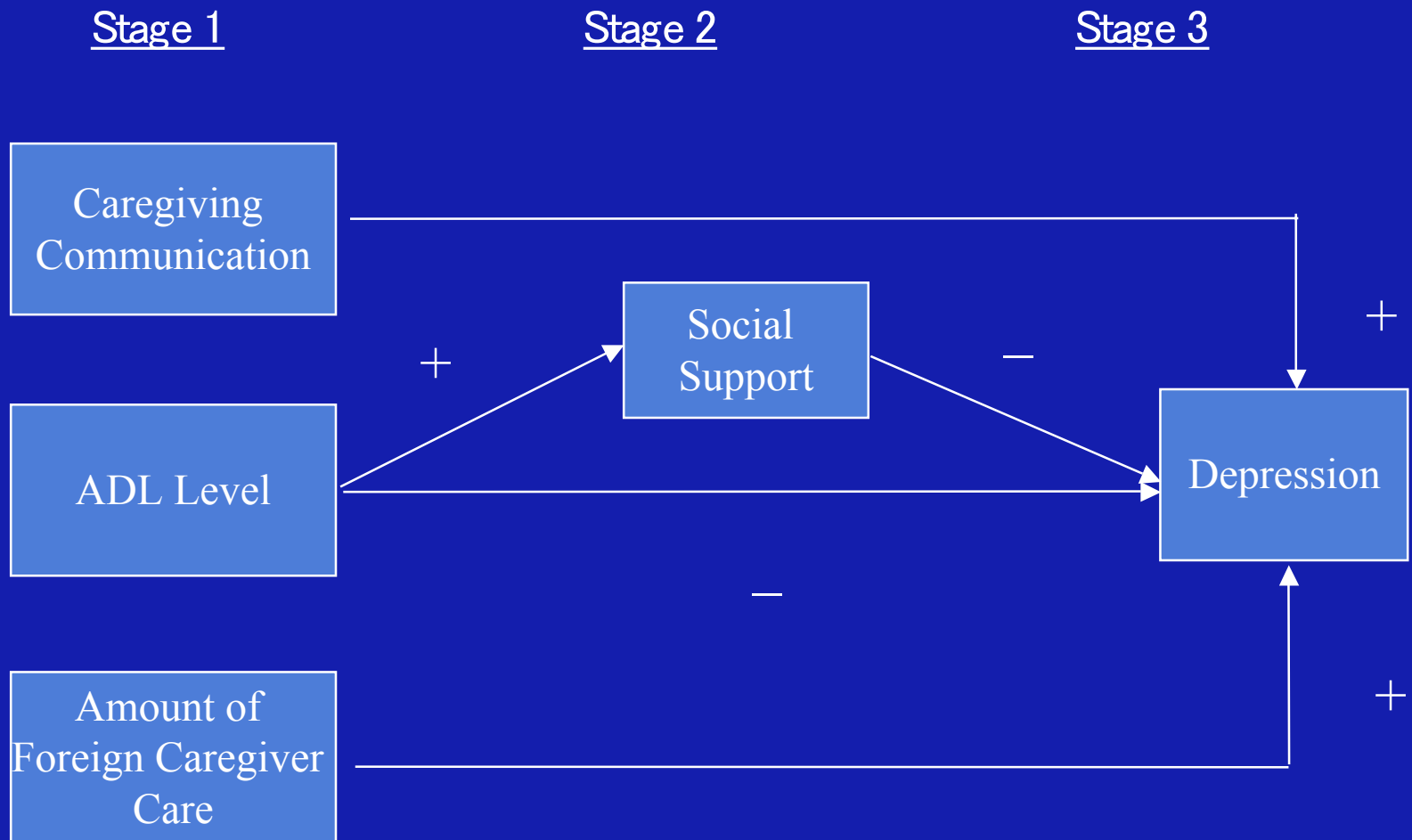
Purpose

To examine factors influencing depression among elderly Taiwanese

Aims

1. To examine predictors of depression for elderly Taiwanese.
2. To see if elderly who were cared for by foreign caregivers were more depressed than those cared for by their adult children

Theoretical Model



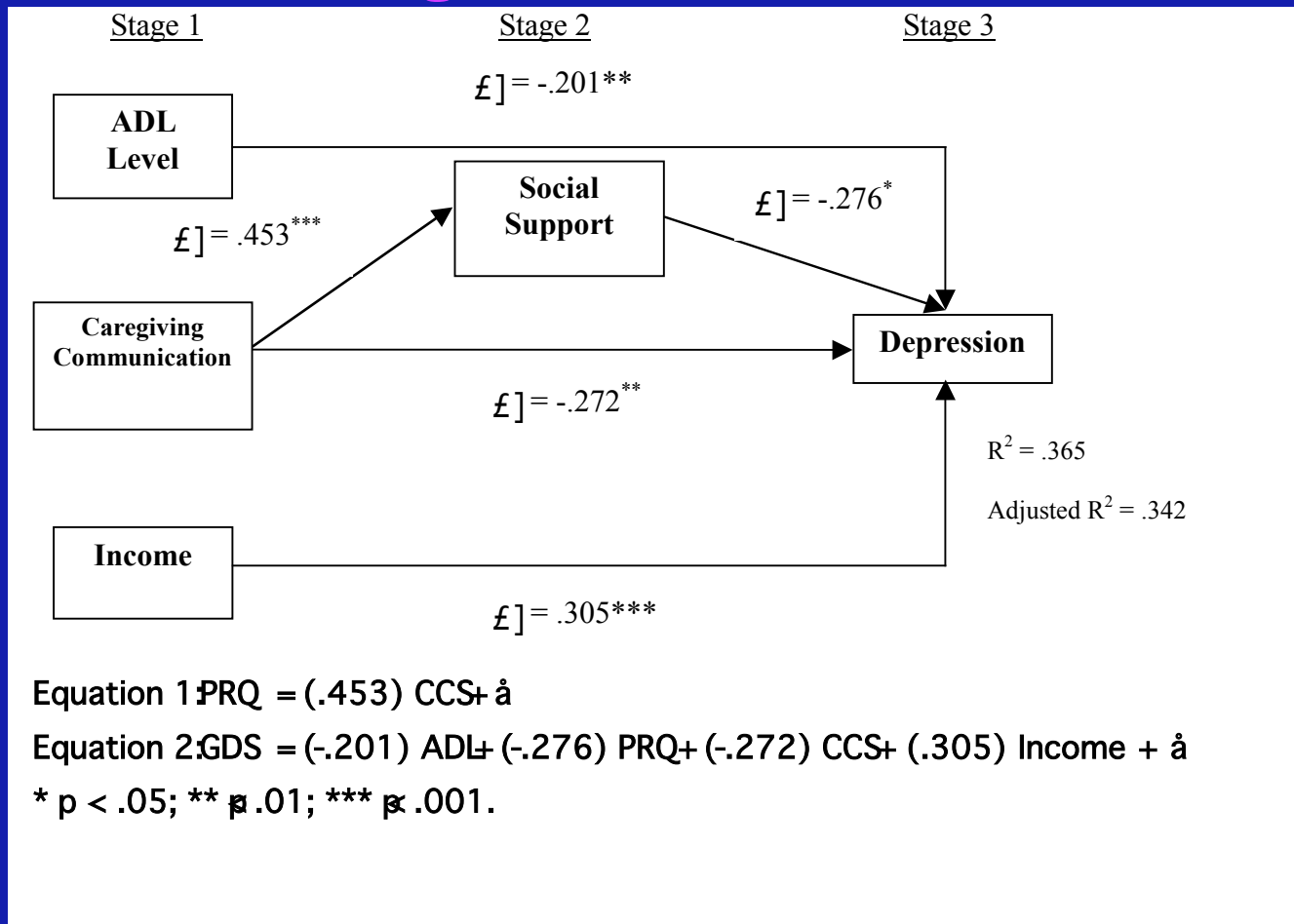
Methods (Cont.)

Data Collection



Results

Whole Model Testing: Alternative Model



Educational/Professional Insights

1. More emphasis on gerontological nursing is needed in the nursing curriculum, especially targeting the mental health of the elderly
2. Perception of depression among elderly Taiwanese should be evaluated and a more healthy approach toward mental health in aging promoted
3. Support for elders' mental health should be reinforced through families as well as communities

Conclusions

1. ADL level, caregiving communication, income, and social support predicted depression among elderly Taiwanese
2. Social support plays an important role directly and indirectly in influencing depression
3. Amount of foreign caregiver care did not affect depression among elderly Taiwanese

Implications

1. Intervention research is needed to help elderly Taiwanese release their stress and receive more information about mental health
2. Focus group research is needed to help elderly establish and extend their social networks.
3. Further research is needed to see if quality of care influences development of depression in Taiwanese elderly

Thank you!