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## **Examining the Role of Agitation and Aggression in Perceived Caregiver Burden**

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## **EXAMINING THE ROLE OF AGITATION AND AGGRESSION IN PERCEIVED CAREGIVER BURDEN**

**Anthony R. Peterson and Joseph S. Alper\*, Department of Psychology, IWU**

Recent research efforts in the area of dementia have revealed that the affected patients are not the only people impacted by the disorder. There are hidden victims who, more often than not, go unnoticed. These people are the caregivers, often family members, of a dementia patient. More and more attention is being focused on caregiver burden because it has been found that caring for a dementia patient can lead to medical or psychological problems in the caregiver. The purpose of this study is to determine if a positive correlation exists between the caregiver's perceived burden and the patients degree of agitation and aggression. The results will be important in helping the neuropsychologist develop appropriate interventions with the dementia patient and his/her caregiver.