

TITLE: E-PROOF: E-intervention for Protein Intake and Resistance Training to Optimize Function

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## *PROTOCOL*

TITLE: E-PROOF: E-intervention for Protein Intake and Resistance Training to Optimize Function

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TYPE OF STUDY: Behavioral Intervention

## BACKGROUND

The 12 million older (age  $\geq 65$ ) cancer survivors (OCS) are at heightened risk of physical function impairment, one of the most pervasive health challenges at the intersection of aging and cancer.<sup>1</sup> Impairments in physical function are more prevalent among older adults with a history of cancer (24-58%) compared to the general older adult population (20-32%), with increased incidence with age.<sup>2-6</sup> Compared to non-cancer peers, older adults with a history of cancer are also more likely to become fatigued faster and have comorbidities, including higher rates of heart and lung disease, arthritis, pain, and obesity.<sup>2,5,7-10</sup> This information underscores the need to design effective interventions to prevent or reduce physical function impairment,<sup>2,11</sup> which has multiple deleterious health effects, including poor health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and higher all-cause mortality.<sup>12-14</sup> OCS are at particular risk of physical function impairment compared to both younger cancer patients and the general older adult population.<sup>5,6,15</sup> Despite the clinical importance and rising prevalence of physical function impairment, physical function has not always been thoroughly examined among OCS. *Thus, there is a critical knowledge gap about how physical function can be improved among OCS.* Consequences of not addressing this serious need will be reduced HRQoL, and increased healthcare costs among the growing OCS population.<sup>16,17</sup>

Declines in adequate protein and calorie intake results in accelerated loss of muscle mass and physical functioning in older adults.<sup>18-20</sup> Prior randomized trials demonstrate that increased protein intake coupled with resistance training, is the most effective strategy to improve physical function.<sup>19,21,8,22-25</sup> Despite substantial evidence, there is a paucity of research on protein consumption and resistance training among OCS, a population at high risk for functional limitations. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the positive impact of online behavior change interventions for cancer survivors,<sup>26-34</sup> online-based interventions to improve physical function should be tested among OCS. A novel approach to improving physical function in OCS is to utilize online, tailored education and counseling from registered dietitians and exercise scientists, to improve dietary intake (protein intake, diet quality) and participation in resistance exercise. The proposed study will be the first synchronous, online protein-focused diet and resistance training intervention among OCS.

## SPECIFIC AIMS

Our objective is to improve physical function through online, tailored nutritional and resistance training counseling to increase protein intake, improve diet quality, increase resistance training, and improve health outcomes (muscle strength, dietary quality, HRQoL, self-efficacy, weight management). This online delivery mechanism also decreases participant exposure to COVID-19 among susceptible OCS. We will utilize established strategies to improve physical function in an innovative way through a 12-week synchronous, online counseling and education intervention for OCS at high risk for physical function impairment. Recruitment will take place at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center. Our rationale is that understanding the influence of nutritional and resistance training counseling and education among OCS is likely to advance the science of geriatrics and cancer survivorship. This study, the E-PROOF (**E**-intervention for **P**rotein Intake and **R**esistance Training to **O**ptimize **F**unction) study, builds on our team's expertise in geriatrics, cancer survivorship, diet, exercise, and physical function and our preliminary data on the dietary, exercise, and physical function deficits among OCS. To attain the overall objective, two aims will be pursued:

**Aim 1:** Determine the feasibility and acceptability of implementing a 12-week online dietary and resistance training randomized trial with 70 older cancer survivors. This aim will be accomplished by collecting detailed process data, which allows the assessment of accrual, retention, and adherence. Our hypothesis is that we will recruit (within 9 months) 70 OCS, retain  $\geq 80\%$  of the sample, and maintain  $\geq 80\%$  adherence to the intervention.

**Aim 2:** Examine the preliminary efficacy of this 12-week online dietary and resistance training intervention with the intervention participants. Registered dietitians and exercise scientists will provide these participants with tailored dietary and resistance training recommendations, counseling, and educational materials. Our hypothesis is that intervention participants will experience statistically significant, clinically meaningful improvements in physical function and associated health outcomes (i.e., muscle strength, dietary quality, HRQoL, self-efficacy,

weight management) after the 12-week dietary and resistance training intervention and at a 3-month post-intervention follow-up.

## **METHODS**

### **I. STUDY DESIGN**

We will examine the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of a 12-week online dietary and resistance training intervention to improve the physical function of OCS through increased protein consumption, healthy eating, and resistance training. In this pilot randomized controlled trial, participants (n=70) will be randomized to one of the two groups: experimental (online counseling, menus, educational materials) and enhanced control (passive educational materials). We will examine the intervention effects on physical function and associated health outcomes during the 12-week period between the experimental and control group.

### **II. PARTICIPANT SELECTION**

#### **1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Eligibility criteria are: ≥65 years of age, a primary diagnosis of stage I-III breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer, completion of primary curative treatment, reported at least 1 physical function limitation on the PFSS ("limited a little", "limited a lot"), no evidence of progressive disease or second cancers, community-dwelling, and able to provide consent. The 3 cancer types are chosen because they are the most common cancer types<sup>35</sup> with high 5-year survival rates.<sup>36</sup> Additionally, most of the evidence of the benefits of exercise and diet has occurred in survivors diagnosed with breast, prostate, or colorectal cancer.<sup>24,37-39</sup> Individuals are excluded if they currently receive cancer treatment (e.g., chemotherapy, radiation), have liver and/or renal disease limiting their protein intake, are under the care of a RD/nutritionist, participating in other diet/exercise interventions, consume protein supplements, and have contraindications to unsupervised exercise (e.g., walker/wheelchair use).

#### **2. RECRUITMENT**

Five methods will be employed to recruit potential participants:

1. Flyers distributed at the JamesCare for Life programs (wellness programs offered through the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC)) as well as through their email list of cancer survivors. Flyers will also be distributed at the OSUCCC's Cancer and Aging Resiliency (CARE) clinics, multidisciplinary clinics designed to address the unique needs of older cancer survivors, and the OSUCCC GI Medical Oncology Clinic. The study will be advertised on the flyer and eligible women and men will be requested to contact the research assistant if they are interested in study participation.

2. In-person during follow-up visits at the Survivorship Clinic and CARE clinics within OSUCCC by study team member (Dr. Rosko). When prospective patients are identified, the provider will provide the prospective participant with the recruitment flyer that has the PI and research assistant's names and contact information. In addition, the research assistant will be in the clinics screening eligible participants by appointment date and meeting the potential participants in person to recruit them.

3. Previously consented older cancer survivors in the OSUCCC Total Cancer Care (TCC) registry. The TCC registry, a personalized cancer care initiative designed to collect clinical data and tumor specimens throughout a patient's lifetime, will be utilized to capture a larger cancer populations. TCC's consent rate is 94% of all patients evaluated at the OSUCCC. Based on the eligibility criteria, TCC will contact potential participants, identified across all OSUCCC clinics, through phone calls, to introduce the proposed study and see if they agree to be contacted by the study staff. If permission is given, the study staff member will contact the potential participant and determine eligibility. The study staff member will administer the 10-question RAND-36 Physical Function Subscale (PFSS) to determine physical function limitations. If the participant has at least 1 limitation on the PFSS, the participant will be invited to participate in the study, consented, and invited to the baseline in-person visit. These recruitment procedures will continue for 9 months until 70 older cancer survivors have agreed to participate in the study. Previous efforts by the PI, co-Is, and consultants to recruit older cancer survivors have shown these strategies to be effective.

4. Facebook and Research Match Recruitment Messages. OSU Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) services will be used to generate advertisements for Facebook and Research Match that align with The Ohio State University's College of Medicine institutional branding standards. Facebook advertisements will use

the following criteria as the target audience: ≥65 years old, geographic location within a 90-minute driving radius of Columbus, Ohio. The Facebook advertisement will direct the user to the E-PROOF Study Search page. These advertisements will be live for a two-week period during recruitment.

Research Match will also be used to recruit potential participants. ResearchMatch is a free and secure online tool created by academic institutions across the country to share study and PI contact information to potentially eligible participants. Potentially eligible participants will receive an email introduction to the study and, if they are interested, permit ResearchMatch to release their contact information to the study team. The research assistant will then contact potential participants, via email or phone, to explain study requirements, and confirm eligibility (≥65 years of age, history of stage 1-3 breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer, completed primary cancer treatment, and have an email address).

5. OSUCCC-James Cancer Program Analytics services will be used to generate a list of OSUCCC patients meeting the study criteria.

Email: Potential participants with email addresses will be emailed an invitation letter, signed by OSUCCC providers, to participate in the study. An informational overview of the study and time commitment will also be provided in the invitation. Potential participants interested in the study will be instructed to contact the Clinical Research Coordinator to discuss any questions and complete the screening questionnaire to confirm eligibility.

### B. Recruitment Locations

Recruitment will occur at the Survivorship Clinic and CARE clinics within OSUCCC. Recruitment will occur in the clinic exam rooms and/or the waiting room at these clinics. As noted in the facilities page, OSUCCC is the third largest cancer hospital in the nation. The hospital includes a 36-bed blood and marrow transplant unit, inpatient units in which sub-specialists focus on just one type of cancer, a cancer clinical trials unit, 14 state-of-the-art operating rooms, six interventional radiology suites, special isolation rooms, chemotherapy and transfusion areas, and seven linear accelerators for radiation therapy. The Survivorship Clinic at OSUCCC is one of the country's largest cancer supportive care programs, with about 40 team members. The Cancer and Aging Resiliency (CARE) clinics at OSUCCC provides each older adult with cancer with a comprehensive, multidisciplinary treatment plan. Study team member, Dr. Rosko, is the director of the CARE clinics located at the OSUCCC.

### C. Recruitment Follow-up

The research assistant will send out a reminder mailing to all identified participants two weeks after the initial study contact. The research assistant will make at three attempts by phone to reach the non-responders. If no response is given after the third attempt, the potential participant will be considered a "non-responder."

## **3. INFORMED CONSENT PROCESS**

For in-person informed consent, it will take place in a quiet setting and in a manner such that the participant does not feel rushed or pressured. If telephone/video-based informed consent is received, the potential participants will be mailed two paper copies of the informed consent (one to send back to study team and one to keep for their records) and asked to review them prior to the telephone call with study staff.

In both in-person and telephone/video-based informed consent procedures, subjects will be informed about all aspects of the study and asked to read the consent form. The form will be written in simple, easy-to-understand language. We require study staff to review all key aspects of the study verbally. Staff will be provided with a structured checklist for this purpose. As the participant reads each page, they are asked to initial the page and encouraged to ask questions. Prior to signing the document, they will be asked basic questions about the study to ascertain as best as possible if they have understood the requirements of the study, the potential risks, and the potential benefits. A copy of the informed consent will be given to the participant, and the original signed copies will be kept in the participant's file.

## **4. RISKS AND BENEFITS**

All data obtained from participants is considered confidential. Precautions will be taken to protect computerized or electronic data from unauthorized disclosure, tampering, or damage by controlling access to the computers and files that hold this information. Access to computer files will only be obtained through passwords and will

only be accessed by IRB-authorized research study personnel. Only authorized research study personnel will have permission to examine computer records to identify which patients are eligible to approach. Analysis of data will be performed at The Ohio State University by the study PI and with assistance from Dr. Xu (OSU College of Medicine). Whereas no assurance can be made to an individual participant that he or she will personally benefit from such research, the experience should be beneficial. The risks compared to the potential benefits are minimal to the individual research participant and virtually nonexistent to others or society in general. More information about the risks and benefits are on pages 8-10.

### III. STUDY PROCEDURES

#### 1. WHAT WILL BE DONE

The study's overall goal is to recruit 70 older cancer survivors to examine the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of a 12-week online dietary and resistance training intervention to improve their physical function through increased protein consumption, healthy eating, and resistance training.

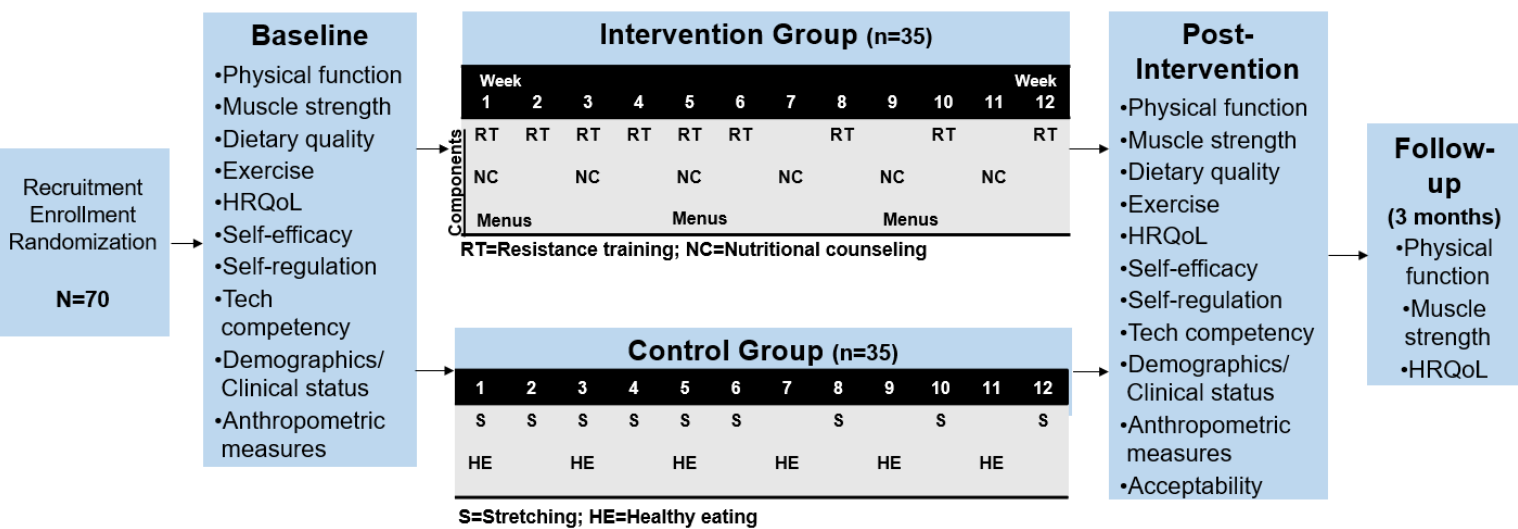
#### 2. HOW IT WILL BE DONE

The E-PROOF intervention core content is from publicly available, pre-existing educational content provided by the NIA, NCI, American Cancer Society, American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), and OSUCCC. The dietary core content includes: 1) recommended amount and sources of protein intake; 2) healthy eating as an OCS; 3) protein intake benefits; and 4) importance of maintaining physical function through diet. The resistance training intervention core content includes: 1) recommended frequency and resistance training exercises; 2) resistance training benefits; 3) different muscle groups; and 4) the importance of maintaining physical function through resistance training. Intervention participants will also have the option of attending Zoom®-based social hours (held at 7-8pm EST, 1 day/week, weeks 3, 6, 9) to share their thoughts and experiences with each other. Informed design was used for intervention development by reviewing relevant evidence; replicating prior successful intervention elements from the PI and co-Is and; incorporating feedback from the Cancer and Aging Research Group's patient advocacy group (see Letter of Support).

*Randomization and Baseline Assessment:* Subjects will be block randomized by the number of physical function limitations measured by the PFSS.<sup>40</sup> At the in-person visits at baseline and end-of-study, study staff will measure the physical function (SPPB), muscle strength (handgrip, SPPB), height, weight, and waist circumference of all participants (intervention and control). The Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) secure platform<sup>41,42</sup> will be used for baseline questionnaire data collection, which will assess dietary quality (DHQIII), self-reported exercise, HRQoL, self-efficacy, and demographic and clinical information. After data collection, the research assistant will show intervention participants how to access the REDCap-based logs and enter their weekly dietary intake and exercise adherence. At the end of the baseline visit, intervention participants will receive a binder with printed educational materials on increasing dietary protein, healthy eating, and resistance training to preserve or rebuild lean body mass as a reference tool. Resistance bands (three levels of Thera-bands®), and resistance band exercise guidelines (exercises by muscle group, proper form, how to rate difficulty) will be distributed to intervention participants.

*Intervention Participants.* Participants randomized to the intervention group (n=35) will be paired after the baseline assessment with a RD and ES for the duration of the 12-week intervention (**Figure 1**). The diet and resistance training intervention will be tailored to each participant in the intervention group based on the information collected during their baseline visit.

**Figure 1. Study schema**



**Nutritional counseling:** Within 1 week of the baseline visit, a RD will review the DHQIII results and create a tailored dietary plan focusing on protein intake and healthy eating for each intervention participant. At weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, the RD will provide one-on-one, online (Zoom®, FaceTime®) nutritional counseling to the intervention participants. During the biweekly online 30-minute visits, the RD, guided by elements in behavior change theories, will review and check on their progress toward increased protein intake and healthy eating, use motivational interviewing strategies to support the participants' progress, provide reinforcement, explore strategies to overcome barriers, field questions, and establish tailored goals. Counseling will consist of education to stimulate sufficient protein- and energy intake using regular food, based on the current American Cancer Society nutrition guidelines for cancer survivors<sup>43</sup> and DGAs for protein and energy for adults aged ≥60 (5-6.5 oz. eq/day based on 1,600-2,600 calories/day).<sup>44</sup> Counseling of these protein targets will account for variability in body weight.<sup>45-47</sup> Due to physiological limit of protein synthetic capacity, spread feeding of proteins over the day is preferred and participants will be advised to consume 25-30 grams of proteins per meal.<sup>18</sup> After the counseling session for weeks 1, 5, and 9, the RD will email/mail participants menus, snack ideas, and recipes focused on protein and healthy eating. Participants will be encouraged to record their weekly dietary intake in their REDCap-based log to practice self-monitoring, provide motivation, and facilitate recall and reflection during nutritional counseling sessions. RDs will access these online entries to review participants' protein and overall dietary intake and provide recommendations during counseling.

**Resistance training counseling:** For the first 6 weeks, the ES will host weekly, one-on-one, 30-minute, online resistance training sessions for the intervention group, using a progression model.<sup>48</sup> After week 6, the resistance training sessions will taper, and be held biweekly at weeks 8, 10, and 12. Based on behavior change models, at the beginning of all sessions, the ES will review progress toward increased resistance training, and support progress and strategies to overcome barriers through motivational interviewing. In each training session, the ES will provide education, then lead participants through a 5-minute warm-up, followed by a series of whole-body exercises (each major muscle group) performed at each session, and a 5-minute cool-down. The training is based on a co-I's (Focht) expertise in exercise interventions,<sup>49-51</sup> the ACSM exercise guidelines for cancer survivors,<sup>52</sup> and ACSM recommendations for progressive resistance training for older adults<sup>53</sup> consisting of 1-3 sets of 8-10 exercises with 8-12 repetitions with a 1-2 min rest between sets. Participants will be encouraged to complete these exercises two more times/week, totaling three sessions/week, and record their weekly resistance trainings in the REDCap platform (same weekly log as dietary intake). The diary will ask participants if they exercised (yes/no), type of exercise (i.e., resistance training, walking), intensity (mild/moderate/strenuous) and the time spent exercising for each day of the week. Diaries will be used by the ES to assess exercise adherence and to progress the exercise program during training sessions. Participants will be encouraged to refer to their educational materials for guidance between synchronous resistance training sessions.

**Enhanced Control Participants.** Participants randomized to the enhanced control group (n=35) will not receive online nutritional or resistance training education or counseling. Control participants will take part in three in-

person assessments (baseline, end-of-study, 3-month follow-up) with study staff and receive printed materials (NCI's "Facing Forward: Life After Cancer Treatment") pertaining to general cancer survivorship.

*Follow-up.* Three months after the 12-week intervention, all participants will return for an in-person assessment by study staff of physical function, muscle strength, and HRQoL. This information is essential to understanding the sustained impact of this intervention and trajectories of physical function among OCS.

### 3. TIMELINE

We will work with cancer clinic leadership, clinicians, and clinic staff to coordinate recruitment to ensure that clinic flow is not disrupted. The Clinical Research Coordinator, TBN, will serve as a central point of contact and will assist with these activities. Throughout the course of the study period, Dr. Krok-Schoen will hold regular staff meetings to discuss recruitment, and to address any issues that occur on a case-by-case and clinic-by-clinic basis. The Clinical Research Coordinator will directly supervise the day-to-day progress of all study activities. We estimate a large number (n~150) of potentially eligible patients on an average weekday at the OSUCCC, with a limiting factors being workforce, clinic flow, and participation rates. We anticipate that we can feasibly enroll an average of 2 patients per day over 9 months of recruitment and reach our recruitment goal of 70 participants.

**Figure 2. Timeline and Work Plan**

	Year 1				Year 2			
Study Quarters (over 2 years)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Participant Recruitment</b>								
Recruitment of 70 older cancer survivors								
<b>Aim 1: Determine Feasibility and Acceptability of Intervention</b>								
Implementation of a 12-week online, tailored nutritional and resistance training counseling intervention								
Measurement of accrual, retention, and adherence rates								
Analysis of participant intervention evaluation								
<b>Aim 2: Examine Efficacy of Intervention</b>								
Measurement of physical function, muscle strength, and height, weight, and waist circumference at baseline and 12 weeks								
Measurement of diet quality, exercise, health-related quality of life, self-efficacy, and demographic and clinical information through REDCap-based questionnaires at baseline and 12 weeks								
Analysis of change in physical function, muscle strength, and height, weight, and waist circumference from baseline to 12 weeks								
Analysis of change in diet quality, exercise, health-related quality of life, self-efficacy, and demographic and clinical information from baseline to 12 weeks								
<b>Examine Maintenance of Intervention</b>								
Measurement of physical function, muscle strength, and health-related quality of life at 3-month follow-up								
Analysis of change baseline and end-of-study (6 months) in physical function, muscle strength, and health-related quality of life								
<b>Integration and Dissemination Activities</b>								
Project meetings, monitoring, and fidelity checks								
Prepare abstracts, manuscripts, and presentations								
Preparation and submission of next-step grant application								

## DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROCESS

#### 4. DATA TO BE COLLECTED

We are collecting data using all validated measures. Our main outcome is physical function which will be measured by The physical performance assessment, Short Physical Performance Battery (SPPB)<sup>54</sup>, will measure physical function at baseline, end-of-study, and follow-up. The SPPB includes three lower extremity physical performance measures (standing balance, five consecutive chair rises, 4-meter gait walk at usual pace) to assess lower extremity strength.

Secondary outcomes will be:

- *Acceptability.* At end-of-study, intervention group participants will complete a 5-item, Likert-scale questionnaire, with written comments, regarding their preferences for receiving education and counseling, successes and challenges, program satisfaction, and suggestions for improvement.
- *Feasibility.* Intervention feasibility will be measured by rates of accrual, retention, and adherence at baseline, end-of-study, and 3-month follow-up. Recruitment rate is based on Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials criteria<sup>55</sup> that includes eligible consented individuals and eligible non-consented individuals with non-recruitment reasons documented. Process information (number/duration of video visits) will be recorded.
- *Muscle Strength.* Handgrip strength will be measured at baseline, end-of-study, and follow-up in both hands using a hydraulic grip strength dynamometer (Jamar Model 7498).
- *Dietary Quality.* Protein intake and dietary quality will be assessed at baseline and end-of-study by the National Cancer Institute's DHQIII.<sup>56</sup>
- *Resistance exercise.* Self-reported resistance exercise will be assessed using the revised version of The Godin-Shephard Leisure-Time Exercise Questionnaire (LTEQ) modified to specifically capture self-reported resistance exercise participation.
- *HRQoL.* RAND-36 Health Status Measure<sup>57</sup> is comprised of 8 subscales assessing multiple aspects of HRQoL. Physical and mental component summaries are created. All scores range from 0-100, with 100 as the highest.
- *Self-efficacy.* Baseline and end-of-study self-efficacy for diet and resistance training will be measured by: "How sure are you that you could do exercises to make your body stronger for 15 minutes, 3 days a week?" and "How sure are you that you could improve your diet?"
- *Self-regulation.* Baseline and end-of-study self-regulation for diet and exercise will be measured by the 12-item Dietary Self-Regulation Scale<sup>58</sup> and the 12-item Exercise Self-Regulation Scale<sup>59</sup>.
- *Technology competency.* The 8-item eHealth Literacy Scale (eHEALS)<sup>60</sup> will measure knowledge, comfort, and perceived skills of engaging in eHealth at baseline and end-of-study. A 5-point Likert scale will be used.
- *Anthropometry.* Body weight, height, and waist circumference will be collected at baseline and end-of-study.
- *Demographic and Clinical Information.* Participants' age, race, ethnicity, gender, education, income, marital status, insurance status, cancer diagnosis, stage at diagnosis, time since diagnosis, treatments received (e.g., chemotherapy, radiation) and comorbidities will be collected at baseline and updated at end-of-study.

#### 5. HOW THE DATA WILL BE COLLECTED OR ACCESSED

Research materials will come from the following sources: Total Cancer Care registry data from the study site, and the Cancer Supportive Care Clinic, part of OSUCCC will be used for recruitment purposes. . Participants' physical function (as measured by the SPPB), muscle strength (handgrip, SPPB), weight, height, and waist circumference will be collected at the in-person meetings (baseline and after the 12-week intervention). Online Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap)-based questionnaires at baseline and end-of-study will collect assessing dietary quality (DHQIII), self-reported exercise (frequency/duration/intensity), health-related quality of life (RAND-36), and self-efficacy. Basic demographic (e.g., age, race, education) and health characteristics (e.g., comorbidities, stage of cancer at diagnosis, treatments received) will be collected through REDCap questionnaires. These questionnaires will be self-administered and a research assistant will be available to address any technological difficulties. Three months after the 12-week intervention, all participants will return for an in-person assessment of physical function (SPPB), muscle strength (handgrip, SPPB), and health-related quality of life (via REDCap questionnaire).

#### 6. DATA COLLECTION TIMELINE

This is a two-year study. Figure 2, on pages 6 and 7, illustrates the data collection timeline. Briefly, we will recruit 70 participants in 9 months. After recruitment and consent, participants will begin their 12- week intervention. Data will be collected at baseline, end-of-study (12 weeks), and follow-up (3 months after the end of study).

#### **7. HOW THE DATA ARE STORED AND PROTECTED**

The proposed intervention utilizes an individualized approach and does not operate in group settings, therefore ensuring participants' privacy. Confidentiality will be protected in several ways. All data points will be collated and stored on a REDCap database, a secure web application. Data will be used only in aggregate and no identifying characteristics of individuals will be published or presented. Confidentiality of data will be maintained by using research identification numbers that uniquely identify each individual. Safeguards will be established to ensure the security and privacy of participants' study records. The information collected from participants in this study has a low potential for abuse, since the data do not address sensitive issues. Nevertheless, appropriate measures will be taken to prevent unauthorized use of study information. All computer systems will be password-protected against intrusion. All network-based communications of confidential information will be encrypted. Data other than demographic information do not use names as an identifier. The research number will be used.

All paper files and computer files with the de-identified data will be stored under lock and key at all times. The files matching participants' names and demographic information with research numbers will be kept in a separate room and will be stored in a locked file that uses a different key from that of all other files. Only study personnel will have access to these files, and they will be asked to sign a document that they agree to maintain the confidentiality of the information. After the study is completed, local data will be stored with other completed research studies in a secured storage vault.

#### **8. WILL DATA BE SENT OUTSIDE OF OSU FOR ANALYSIS?**

No.

### **IV. HUMAN SUBJECTS INFORMATION**

#### **1. POTENTIAL RISKS**

An adverse event or experience is defined as any health-related unfavorable or unintended medical occurrence that happens during the process of screening or after randomization. Non-serious adverse events are defined as conditions that may be unpleasant and bothersome to the participant, such as sore muscles, that do not require discontinuing the study intervention or terminating components of the intervention. These do not require reporting. Finally, serious adverse events are defined as events that may be harmful to the participant and/or may be serious enough to warrant either temporary or permanent discontinuation of the study intervention, either because they are intolerable or because they are judged to be potentially harmful. All serious adverse events require immediate reporting and an assessment of the implications for the continuation of the study and/or modification of the consent form.

Unexpected adverse events are defined as events that are not listed above potential events and are not listed in the consent form. Monitoring for unexpected serious adverse events attributable to the intervention is the responsibility of the study project manager who is trained and has experience in monitoring and reporting events. The project manager will inform the PI of any events. Specific reporting and review requirements are defined for unexpected events, so that, if an unexpected event is found to be related to the intervention, the protocol and consent can be modified.

On-site adverse events are defined as events that occur at a research study site. Events that require immediate notification of the study PI (Dr. Krok-Schoen) and senior medical oncologist (Dr. Rosko) and 24-hour notification of the IRB include: (1) deaths, and (2) health events at that result in immediate hospitalization or medical care. These events are also immediately reported to the rest of the study team, the Data and Safety Monitoring Board, and the NIH.

We anticipate that this study will entail minimal physical and psychological risks for study participants. There is a small risk to participants of sustaining an injury while participating in the intervention. However, physical injury is not anticipated and the trained, certified exercise scientist will provide guidance on how to participate in resistance training, safely and effectively. Participant risk may also include, but not anticipated, psychological distress associated with completion of the online questionnaires. If this occurs, study staff will speak to the participant about the difficulties that the questionnaires have caused and will offer a referral to a

mental health professional if necessary. Lastly, we are proposing a synchronous online intervention design to reduce psychological distress and assist with the maintenance of health behaviors among participants.

Potential risks for the registered dietitian and exercise scientist will be minimal. Minor risk, but not anticipated, may include psychological distress associated with potentially negative experiences and feedback from participants (i.e., hard to motivate individuals, reported distressing symptoms). These professionals are from an established programs, experienced in providing guidance and counseling online, and will receive training prior to interacting with the study population.

## **2. PROTECTIONS AGAINST RISK**

Lifestyle interventions that are personalized to individual functional capacity and activity tolerance have been well-established to be safe for older cancer survivors. As a research group, we have the experience and expertise to ensure the safety of participants and minimize aforementioned risk. There will be an educational session for the registered dietitian and exercise scientist on the unique needs and challenges of older cancer survivors prior to the intervention. The content will be taught by members of the research team, gerontologist (Dr. Krok-Schoen), registered dietitian (Dr. Spees), and an exercise scientist (Dr. Focht), will host a comprehensive training session for the registered dietitian and exercise scientist about the unique needs, goals, and contextual factors of older cancer survivors. This training will detail their duties within this intervention including: discussing the core educational elements (provided within the study binders), ensuring the appropriateness of the registered dietitians and exercise scientist's guidance and counseling, recommendations, informing them of potential reported barriers to improving dietary quality and resistance training, encourage tailored messaging for older cancer survivors, recording process data (e.g., number of visits, adherence to protocol) within the REDCap platform, accessing the REDCap-based exercise/dietary logs of the intervention participants, and ensuring the safety of participants. In addition, Dr. Spees and Dr. Focht, will be the primary contacts for the registered dietitian and exercise scientist, respectively, if any concerns arise about the safety of participants. The registered dietitian and exercise scientist will also be encouraged to communicate any challenges or difficulties to the PI and/or during the regular meetings with the study team.

As in similar prior lifestyle intervention trials conducted by the study team members, we will obtain a release form from each participant's primary care physician for involvement in the study. We will ask the primary care physicians to complete a form related to the inclusion and exclusion health conditions—yes/no. If an activity-related injury or illness does occur, the PI (Dr. Krok-Schoen), the co-I (Dr. Focht), who is an exercise scientist, and study member (Dr. Rosko), who is a senior oncologist, will be consulted according to the type of symptom reported. In some instances, it may be appropriate to reduce the participant's resistance training goals. If the injury or symptoms do not resolve after an appropriate period of time, the participant will be referred to her primary care provider for further evaluation. The participant will be encouraged to follow the primary care provider's instructions.

After the baseline assessment, participants will be provided (on paper and via email) a weblink to access their REDCap-based weekly logs. The research assistant will provide a demonstration on how to access the REDCap-based logs and enter their weekly dietary intake and exercise adherence. Intervention participants will be advised to contact the research assistant in the event of technical difficulties. Weekly REDCap-based logs of the intervention participant's dietary intake and exercise adherence will offer the registered dietitian and exercise scientist as well as study team insight into their goal progression. These logs will provide an additional method to monitor potential participant difficulties, which the study team will address, therefore, reducing participant risk.

All study members are trained in methods to reduce risks. All study materials and information will be kept on the OSU Medical Centers' secure computer network that is behind a firewall and password-protected. Specifically, the data will be housed within The Center for Biostatistics at OSU. At the dissemination phase, the data will be shared and housed within OSUWMC Information Technology Department, Biomedical Informatics program, an extensive research-oriented virtual server and storage area network facility. The Biomedical Informatics program also aligns with and leverages the enterprise support model offered by OSUWMC IT including a support desk and a dedicated security and risk assessment team. Any transfer of the data will be behind an internal, password-protected firewall. All applications and processes that use patient information are governed by HIPAA in the course of daily operations. The study will follow all existing procedures for protecting confidentiality and anonymity.

## **3. BENEFITS**

For the older cancer survivors participating the intervention, they may receive benefit from their participation in terms of improving their physical function (primary study outcome), learning new resistance training techniques, trying new healthy foods and recipes, deepening their personal health and nutrition knowledge, and improving their physical and mental health outcomes. Participation may result in increased knowledge of personal health risks, ways to improve physical function, how to be active safely and effectively as an older cancer survivor, how to overcome barriers to improve dietary quality and resistance training, and increased self-efficacy to work toward their health goals. This knowledge can motivate them to continue these healthy behaviors to support their life as an older adult with a history of cancer. Participants may also gain a better understanding of technology used in this study including Zoom®, FaceTime®, and REDCap. In addition, participants may feel a sense of rapport and support with the registered dietitian and exercise scientist. The participants, registered dietitian, and exercise scientist may experience pride in knowing that they are contributing to research to improve the health and well-being of cancer survivors. The low level of risk associated with this study is overshadowed by the potential benefits. We believe that the aforementioned risks of this study are minimal and reasonable, when compared to: 1) the scientific knowledge to be gained by performing these studies and; 2) the potential benefits to study subjects.

For others outside this research study, results from this study will provide vital information about improving physical function and associated health outcomes among OCS. It will significantly contribute to the understanding of retention, adherence, and efficacy of diet and resistance training interventions among OCS as well as older adults. This study also will provide information about the acceptability and feasibility of technology-based intervention among older cancer survivors, a population who are often excluded from technology-based interventions. Thus, the multiple anticipated benefits to the subjects and others outweigh the minimal risks for participants.

#### **4. STUDY TERMINATION PROCEDURES**

Participants will be informed that they can stop participating at any time with no penalties to them. If participants decide to stop being in the study, their surveys will be deleted from the REDCap system. However, if participants only choose to answer certain questions without explicitly stating a desire to no longer participate, survey data for those answered questions will be stored.

### **V. STATISTICAL METHODS**

#### **1. SAMPLE SIZE AND JUSTIFICATION**

A pilot randomized controlled trial with 70 OCS (n=35 for intervention arm; n=35 for control arm) is the most efficient design to accomplish the aims of this pilot study.<sup>61-63</sup> For this study, the minimum sample size is calculated using G\*Power. Specifying alpha level to be 0.05 (one-sided), expected power to be 0.80, and an expected effect size of 0.50 for the primary outcome (physical function measured by SPPB), the sample size required is 27 per group. Effect size estimates are based on recommendations for clinically meaningful differences for the SPPB<sup>64,65</sup> and previous pilot randomized controlled trials utilizing the SPBB reporting effect sizes of similar magnitude.<sup>66,67</sup> Similar designed pilot randomized controlled trials<sup>38,68-70</sup> used comparable sample sizes to demonstrate acceptability and feasibility.

#### **2. DATA ANALYSIS PLAN**

*Aim 1:* The feasibility of implementing a 12-week online diet and resistance training intervention with OCS will be determined by the study accrual rate, retention rate, and adherence rate. The study accrual rate will be calculated by dividing the number of potential participants that passed screening by the total number of participants started in the study after appropriate informed consent procedures. The recruitment goal is set at 70 participants recruited over a 9-month period. Retention rate will be calculated by dividing the total number of participants initiated by total number of participants in the study at baseline and 12 weeks (end-of-study). Retention goal for this trial is 80%. If 80% (56/70) of participants are retained at end-of-study, the retention goal for this trial will be achieved. Previous studies by the study team had similar recruitment and retention rates of older participants.<sup>71-73</sup> We are confident in our ability to recruit and retain the study participants necessary to conduct the proposed study. Participants will be determined to be adherent if they attend ≥80% of the intervention sessions (in-person meetings with study staff and online intervention sessions).<sup>71,74,75</sup> Overall adherence and

retention rates and associated 95% confidence intervals will be reported at baseline, end-of-study, and 3-month follow-up.

*Aim 2:* The primary outcome of the SPPB will be assessed at three time points: baseline, end-of-study, and 3-month follow-up. Efficacy will be based on 12 weeks. The SPPB score is a continuous variable, collected as the total score ranging from 0-12. Group differences in SPPB scores over the time will be tested using repeated measures ANOVA (SAS PROC MIXED). Using the planned contrasts command, we will investigate the changes in SPPB scores within each group, and between the intervention and control groups at end-of-study. Descriptive statistics and frequency distributions will be used to characterize the sample. To examine the effect of the intervention on the changes in physical function, a linear mixed effect model will be adopted using SAS PROC MIXED procedure. The intervention group (intervention vs. control) and time points (baseline, end-of-study, 3-month follow-up) serve as the categorical predictors, together with the intervention\*time interaction term. A significant intervention\*time interaction effect would indicate a differential change pattern over the time between the groups. Using post-hoc contrasts, we will compare group differences in all collected variables at each time point. Using planned contrasts command, we will investigate for each group the change from baseline to end-of-study, from end-of-study to 3-month follow-up, and from baseline to 3-month follow-up to capture the change patterns over the phases and Bonferroni correction will be applied. Preliminary effect sizes will be generated to inform future trials. A Shapiro-Wilk test, skewness, kurtosis, and Q-Q plots will be used to assess normality of survivor baseline and end-of-study outcomes. Based on normality tests, change in participant outcome measures from baseline to end-of-study will be assessed using paired t-tests or Wilcoxon's signed rank tests.<sup>76</sup> Analysis will be carried out using intent-to-treat (all participants) and modified intent-to-treat (adherent participants only). All quantitative analyses will be performed using SAS version 9.4.

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