1. OBJECTIVE: The main objective is to determine whether cognitive impairment or limited social support increase the risk of developing gambling problems in elderly persons. Secondly, the study will determine the prevalence of problem and pathological gambling in a large sample (n=980) of elderly individuals, and analyze the results by ethnicity and race (according to US census classifications) while controlling for socioeconomic status (SES).

2. Research Design: Nine hundred and eighty individuals will be invited to participate and complete the South Oaks Gambling Screen-R (past year) (Screening Component). Three hundred individuals will be further evaluated regarding their cognitive functioning and social support (Evaluation Component). These 300 individuals will include (1) 100 individuals who have visited a casino in the last six months and score three or greater on the SOGS-R, (2) 100 matched controls who have visited a casino in the last six months and score zero on the SOGS-R and (3) 100 individuals who have not visited a casino (regardless of SOGS-R score).

3. Methodology
   Inclusion criteria for screening component: Participants must be at least 60 years old and able to read and write English. 875 of the 980 subjects will be individuals who have visited a gambling casino in the last six months. 105 of the 980 subjects will be individuals who have not visited a casino.
   Inclusion criterion for evaluation component: Score of either greater than two or zero on the SOGS-R.
   Exclusion criteria: There are no specific exclusion criteria. However, for the extended evaluation, we will ask a participant to reschedule if he/she has consumed significant alcohol recently (i.e. one drink in last 60 minutes, two or more drinks in last three hours, four or more drinks in last 24 hours).

4. Findings:
   This study is ongoing in a community setting; the VA is now being added as a site. The findings below are the results to date with the community sample.