



Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Dementia and Related Population Health Trends

Journal Explores Dementia-Related Trends in High and Middle-Income Countries

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Data from nations around the world can be used to develop strategies for dementia prevention, treatment, and care, according to "[Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Dementia and Related Population Health Trends](#)," a new supplemental issue of GSA's

The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences.

Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's-disease-related dementias are a set of conditions involving impaired memory and other cognitive processes that

Continued on page 06

GSA Members Call on Senate to Strengthen Health Promotion Programs for Older Adults

Speaking at a January 15 hearing of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, GSA members Dawn Carr, PhD, FGSA, and Susan L. Hughes, PhD, FGSA, urged lawmakers to expand the scope of United States aging policy to ensure that as Americans age, we have access to the services and supports we need to thrive.



Carr (left) and Hughes (right)

The hearing, titled "[Improving Wellness Among Seniors: Setting a Standard for the American Dream](#)," was the first convened by the committee in the new 119th Congress,

with Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) as chair and Senator Kirsten Gillebrand (D-NY) as ranking member.

"Health problems in later life are strongly influenced by events,

Continued on page 17

Join a GSA Interest Group

Did you know GSA has more than 60 interest groups covering a range of topics? Each has its own GSA Connect Community to share information and resources.

Stay Connected



From the CEO

Milestones Present Opportunity for Reflection – GSA Celebrates 80 years and 6,000 Members



By James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH
jappleby@geron.org

GSA's 80th anniversary in 2025 brings with it some other great "round-number" milestones in our Society's history. We reported recently in *Gerontology News* that our Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle [broke a record with more than 4,500 registrants](#). And to top that, GSA is now serving a record 6,000+ members. This is a moment to celebrate! GSA continues to serve members from 26 different disciplines while making it possible for "aging curious" undergraduate students to engage with the Society.

We've come a long way since five members signed the charter establishing GSA in 1945. Many take a major anniversary as a chance to celebrate with a cake, candles, or gifts. For GSA, we are using this as a chance to reflect and ensure the day-to-day actions of our staff, board, and volunteer leaders align with the needs of the field of aging and our members.

These milestones reinforce both the long, rich history of our Society, and the growing importance of the field. And our long-term future is looking bright, full of opportunity to continue to grow despite the troubling steps being taken that undermine scientific exploration. (See page 4 for some details.) Even in times of uncertainty, which our membership has faced numerous times before, we continue to innovate, thrive and grow together.

Anniversaries and growth numbers can be just that – numbers on a page, without a clear vision and plan for ongoing success. But as we began implementation of the Society's new three year [strategic plan](#) on January 1, we at GSA headquarters started the year strong.

I convened our executive leadership team in a multi-day session, where we ensured our work and efforts are directly aligned with the strategic plan – from continuing our commitment to ensuring all voices among our members are represented, to advancing the best research in the field, to ending ageism, and fostering support for gerontological and geriatrics education. We also gathered the entire GSA staff team in Washington, DC, to celebrate our 2024 successes and to finalize 2025 program plans.

And every time we gather our full team together in one place, I am reminded of how proud I am of the staff we've cultivated. The GSA team is committed to working on your behalf, supporting the essential work that members do every day to advance research in the field of aging.

The GSA team shares your passion for gerontology. In March, I hope you will join us as we celebrate [Careers in Aging Month](#), highlighting the important work you do and spreading this passion to others considering a career in aging as an option.

Coming off these meetings to kickstart the year, I feel energized and ready to see what's ahead.

This month I will be visiting several colleges and universities located near Boston, our 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting location. As I discuss the future of gerontology, gerontological education, and GSA itself, I will be touting the above achievements and numbers. The meeting's [call for abstracts and volunteers](#) is opening soon. We want you to be a part of this exciting time of growth.

MemberNews

Honors/Appointments/Career Transitions

Theresa (Terri) Harvath, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, a past GSA board chair and president, has been appointed by former Health and Human Services Secretary Javier Becerra to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages, of the Health Resources and Services Administration, for a three-year term.

Joe Verghese, MBBS, MD, MS, chair of the Department of Neurology in the Renaissance School of Medicine at SUNY Stony Brook, was named on the National Institutes of Health's top five research highlights in human health advances list for 2024. He and former colleagues at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine were recognized for developing a culturally unbiased cognitive assessment tool called 5-Cog.



Timothy L. Kauffman PT, PhD, FAPTA, FGSA, whose proposal to GSA was instrumental in creating the Society's Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award in 2011, has made a \$20,000 donation to the award's restricted fund to ensure its long-term sustainability.

"This award is for a person whose work/research is touching

what everyone wants; that is, to recover from whatever medical condition one faces," Kauffman said.

"To date, the award has been given to persons with international backgrounds and a variety of disciplines to include medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, research, and epidemiologists. Everyone wants to recover from whatever malady and that takes a team of persons from a wide

range of disciplines including nursing and psychosocial disciplines. We will all face this and we want to recover and live our best. The field of rehabilitation needs to be acknowledged as the wish and hope of everyone. I want to sustain this honor to those who give the gift of recovery to persons. The reward is getting the patient back."

More GSA donors and opportunities are listed on pages 8 through 11.

Members in the News

Matt Kaeberlein, PhD, FGSA, was quoted in a December 4 National Geographic article titled "Can this 'anti-aging' drug live up to the hype? Here's what we know."

On December 30, **Richard Besdine, MD, FGSA**, was quoted in a *Parade* article titled "The One New Year's Resolution Longevity Experts Are Begging People Over 50 to Start Making."

A January 7 Next Avenue article titled "What We've Learned About Dementia's Toll on Family Finances" quoted **Tsai-Chin Cho, MS**, and **HwaJung Choi, PhD**.



Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on:

[Channing Tate MPH, PhD](#)

Member Referral Program

This month's \$25 Amazon gift certificate winner:

David Dosa, MD, MPH (who referred new member Hawa Abu, MD, MPH, PhD)

To learn how you can become eligible, visit: www.geron.org/referral.

We welcome member submissions at news@geron.org!

Recent Policy Actions



Patricia M. "Trish" D'Antonio
BSPHarm, MS, MBA, BCGP
Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs



Thomas Jordan Miles III, BA
Director of Policy

Visit www.geron.org/advocacy to learn more about GSA's advocacy-related activities, including our weekly [Federal Policy Pulse](#) newsletter.

GSA [responded to a request for comment](#) from the National Institute on Aging regarding [an update to the Health Disparities Research Framework](#), highlighting research on health disparities published in the Society's journals.

GSA signed onto [a letter with FamiliesUSA](#) urging Congressional leaders to protect, preserve, and strengthen Medicaid, which is a foundational source of health and economic security for 80 million Americans. GSA also signed onto [a similar letter with Justice in Aging](#), urging Congress to exclude – from budget reconciliation or other legislation – Medicaid cuts, work requirements, or any changes that limit funding or eligibility.

GSA signed on to [a statement with the Obesity Care Access Network](#) in support of the proposed rule to align coverage policy to reflect the prevailing medical consensus that obesity is a chronic disease.

The **GSA** policy team attended the January meeting of the National Alzheimer's Plan Act Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, which included presentations on risk reduction and long-term services and supports for people living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Executive Power and Posturing Affect Aging Research and Policy

By Brian Lindberg, MMHS, FGSA
GSA Policy Advisor

By now, most of us have heard about the many executive orders (EO), firings, and demands that the newly inaugurated president set in motion here and abroad. President Donald Trump signed a flurry of EOs in the first hours of his second term, one of which [revoked 78 executive actions](#) by the Joe Biden administration.

Invoking EOs – just one of the executive actions a president's administration may take

–to rescind the actions of previous presidents is not itself a new tactic. Biden issued EOs that overturned actions from Trump's first term. It is interesting to note that while executive orders don't require congressional approval, Congress could block them by passing measures to withhold funding or otherwise make it difficult to carry out the order. But with Republicans controlling the House and the Senate, obstacles



will be few. The courts may end up being the avenue for slowing or blocking executive actions.

Health-Related EOs Rescinding Biden Actions

The rescinded EOs included those related to updates to Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) drug pricing models that had been under negotiation including capping generics at \$2 per month out-of-pocket and CMMI's Accelerating Clinical Evidence Model, extended Affordable Care Act (ACA) enrollment periods, and increased funding for organizations assisting individuals in signing up for ACA plans. Trump also issued EOs that [pulled the U.S.](#) from the World Health Organization and the Paris climate agreement. Another sought to upend birthright citizenship established in 1868 by the Fourteenth Amendment, although there is now a court ordered temporary restraining order blocking the EO. KFF [reported](#) that adults and children who would have their citizenship revoked will find it more difficult to obtain insurance from public programs. An EO addressing staffing requirements for nursing homes, as some expected, has not been released as of this writing.

Trump's team told the staff at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, and National Institutes of Health (NIH) – to stop issuing health advisories, scientific reports, and updates to their websites and social media posts. The HHS-run website ReproductiveRights.gov is dark as are the DEI websites at federal agencies, including NIH. Personnel working on DEI issues were placed on paid leave as of January 22 at 5 p.m.

[At NIH](#), researchers, administrators, and students were confronted with abruptly cancelled grant reviews, cancelled trainings, indefinite travel bans, and the aforementioned communication freeze. As well, Trump's EO that attempts to define sex

as binary and eliminate the concept of gender identity "could impact any award involving transgender individuals or that differentiates gender identity from sex," according to [Carrie Wolinetz](#), a former NIH chief of staff.

Trump also revoked an EO designed to guaranteed students at educational institutions receiving federal funds are in an environment free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Personnel Appointments

Robert F. Kennedy Jr, tapped to be the new secretary of HHS, told senators he's [no longer opposed to vaccination](#), but that he is "pro-vaccine safety." Dorothy Fink, MD, an endocrinologist who has spent much of her career working on [women's health issues](#) within the HHS, is acting secretary until there is an outcome from Kennedy's confirmation process. Mehmet Oz, MD, has been tapped to head the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); reporting to Oz would be Rubicon Founders principal Abe Sutton leading the CMS Innovation Center and Collective Medical CEO Chris Klomp as president of the Center of Medicare.

Let's Hold Steady

All this action is a lot to absorb, but don't succumb to either 24-hour scrolling or hiding your head in the sand. I urge you to keep your eyes and ears open. Keep in touch with your colleagues to provide support and to help separate fact from fiction. There's a lot we can do as advocates to keep the information, research, and guidance flowing to policymakers. We must also take advantage of any policy opportunities that come along or that we can create. As reported on page one, two GSA members have already testified in the Senate last month. Keep up the great work!

interfere with daily functioning. Worldwide, significant increases in the number of older adults living with dementia are anticipated in the coming decades – from 55.2 million in 2019 to 78 million in 2030 and 139 million in 2050 – unless effective interventions or treatments that forestall the onset of dementia are developed and widely adopted. The prevalence of dementia is expected to increase more rapidly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) than in high-income countries in the coming decades

“The papers in this current supplemental issue grow our understanding of dementia and dementia care trends in two complementary ways: expanding our understanding of population trends in cognitive impairment and dementia from several high-income countries, and exploring trends and projections in care and related costs for older adults with dementia across high-income and middle-income countries,” wrote guest editors Neil K. Mehta, PhD, Lindsay C. Kobayashi, PhD, Joshua R. Ehrlich, MD, MPH, and Vicki A. Freedman, PhD, in their opening article.

The issue’s contents are an outgrowth of the May 2023 annual meeting of the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging’s (MiCDA) TRENDS network. TRENDS is a network of researchers working to accelerate scientific understanding of population-level changes over time in late-

life disability, death, and health. The May 2023 meeting focused on updating our understanding of dementia and dementia care trends both in the United States and internationally.

Taken together, the six articles and two editorials in this issue underscore four cross-cutting themes and directions for future research:

- Memory impairment and dementia are becoming less prevalent in the U.S., particularly for adults in their mid-70s or older; but declines in memory impairment appear even larger in England and Europe.
- In the U.S., there are racial inequities not only in dementia prevalence but in care demands on family members and in the use of caregiver services such as respite care.
- Models to project dementia prevalence, dementia care, and dementia costs are challenging to estimate and need more development so that sensitivity to assumptions can be assessed.
- There are new opportunities and challenges for studying dementia and dementia trends in LMICs.

This supplemental issue was supported by the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging at the University of Michigan, with funding from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health (P30AG012846).



Online Anytime

The Society’s online learning center for resources offers cutting-edge toolkits, engaging webinars, and thought-provoking podcasts. It’s your passport to staying ahead in the ever-evolving field of aging studies.

Log in to GSA Enrich today and make the most of these resources to enhance your knowledge and career growth!

Be sure to follow GSA Momentum Discussions and GSA on Aging on Podbean or wherever you get your podcasts.

New Webinar

- [How and Why to Apply for GSA’s 2024 Summer Policy Internship: A Conversation with GSA’s 2023 Policy Interns](#)

New Podcasts

- [Empowering Sons and Daughters of People with Younger-Onset Dementia](#) (Momentum Discussion)

New Task Force Leads Preparing to Roll Out ESPO Member Benefits in 2025



*By Kallol Kumar
Bhattacharyya MBBS,
MA, PhD*

On behalf of the newsletter team, I am excited to have the opportunity to introduce ESPO section leaders who will be serving as the lead for an ESPO task force this year. They will bring a unique perspective to ESPO with their skills in leadership, communication, diverse research backgrounds, and collaboration to facilitate current and new programs for ESPO members. We welcome your engagement on any of these topic areas by participating in the [ESPO Community on GSA Connect](#).



Manka Nkimbeng, PhD, MPH, BSN, will be serving as the ESPO Write-In Task Force lead. Nkimbeng is a nurse scientist and assistant professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and an affiliate assistant professor at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. She will organize promoting and hosting monthly write-in sessions in her new role.



Kallol Kumar Bhattacharyya, MBBS, MA, PhD, will serve as the ESPO Communication Task Force Lead. Bhattacharyya is a physician-gerontologist, currently working as an assistant professor and health economist at the University of Memphis School of Public Health. As part of his new role, he will manage promoting ESPO to new and lapsed members, manage social media and ESPO/GSA connect posts, and manage the ESPO newsletter,

collecting columns from the task force and disseminating ESPO news.



Lien Quach, PhD, MPH, MD, is going to serve as the lead of the International Task Force. Quach is a public health physician, gerontologist, and assistant professor in the Department of Urban Public Health at the Manning School of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston. As part of her role, she will communicate with new ESPO international members and support international member activities during the GSA 2025.



Sarah Whitmarsh, MA, will serve as the lead of the ESPO Webinar Task Force. Whitmarsh, as vice president of member engagement for LeadingAge Washington, focuses on member relations, education, professional development, and workforce development for aging services providers. In her new role, she will help develop and run ESPO webinars, identify speakers, and promote webinars to the ESPO/GSA community.



Laura Block, BS, BSN, RN, will lead the Dissertation Writing Group Task Force. Block is a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. As part of her role, she will help manage and implement writing groups, communicating with participants to disperse materials and surveys.

Acknowledgement of Support

GSA is deeply indebted to the following agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their contributions to the Society and its activities during 2024.

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Hannah Albers
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Pamela Monaghan-Geernaert
Rafael Moura Maurmann
Christine Mueller
Donya Nemati
Patricia Newman
Amani Norling
Ben Meyers
NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing
Maureen O’Connor
Donna Owen

Brandt Pence
Barbara Resnick
Sheria Robinson-Lane
Tina Sadarangani
Debra Schexnayder
Justine Sefcik
Kathryn Service
Kay Shannon
Raelene Shippee-Rice
Yeonsu Song
Barbara Stewart
Yue Yang Sun
Jasmine Travers
Natalia Tretyakova
Beth Truett
Corinna Trujillo Tanner
Pao-feng Tsai
David Tucker
Julia Tucker
Sharon Wexler
Kathrine Whitman
Lisa Wiese
Kathy Wright
Zhenchun Yang
Paola Zaninotto
Faika Zanjani

Health Sciences Excellence in Rehabilitation Award
Timothy Kauffman

Biological Sciences Section Nathan Shock New Investigator Award
Holly Brown-Borg
Rita Effros

Barbara J. Berkman SRPP Award for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Research, Practice, or Policy in Aging and Health Care
Mercedes Bern-Klug
David Biegel
Patricia Brownell
Namkee Choi
Lisa Gwyther
Nancy Hooyman
Amy Horowitz
James Lubben
Yunju Nam
Deborah Padgett
Andrew Scharlach
Tracy Schroeffer

Boaz Kahana Student Poster Award
Loretta Anderson
Tirth Bhatta
David Chiriboga
Julie Hicks Patrick
Kristina Wechsler

Call for 2025 Awards

CAREER AWARDS

The Gerontological Society of America recognizes outstanding individuals through a variety of awards. Nominations for these awards open February 1 and must be submitted by March 31. For a full description of nomination requirements, nomination resources, and the list of past awardees, visit www.geron.org/membership/awards or e-mail awards@geron.org.



Society-Wide

Donald P. Kent Award

This award is given annually to a GSA member who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society.

Robert W. Kleemeier Award

This award is given annually to a GSA member in recognition for outstanding research in the field of gerontology.

James Jackson Outstanding Mentorship Award

This award recognizes outstanding commitment and dedication to mentoring minority researchers in the field of aging.

Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award

This award acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology.

M. Powell Lawton Award

This award honors contributions from applied gerontological research that have benefited older people and their care. Sponsored by the Abramson Senior Care's Polisher Research Institute.

Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Contributions to Healthy Aging

This award recognizes an individual whose research, scholarship or practice has generated new or improved policies or practices related to healthy aging. Sponsored by the New York Community Trust through a generous gift from Maxwell A. Pollack Fund.

Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award

This award is given to a member GSA in recognition of outstanding and sustained contribution to geriatric nursing research.

New Award Krout & Elmore Children's Book Award for Best Portrayal of Aging

This award is given each year to recognize positive portrayals of older adults in picture books for children.

Academy For Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)

Clark Tibbitts Award

This award is given to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of gerontology as a field of study in institutions of higher education.

Hiram J. Friedsam Mentorship Award

This award recognizes individuals who have contributed to gerontological and/or geriatrics education through excellence in mentorship to students, faculty, and administrators

Distinguished Faculty Award

This award recognizes persons whose teaching stands out as exemplary, innovative, of impact, or any combination thereof.

Rising Star Early Career Faculty Award

This award recognizes new faculty whose teaching and/or leadership stands out as impactful and innovative.

David A. Peterson Award

This award honors excellence in scholarship in academic gerontology and/or geriatrics for an article in a volume of Gerontology & Geriatrics Education.

Student Leadership Award

This award recognizes students whose leadership has advanced the goals and mission of AGHE as well as the respective goals of their AGHE-affiliated institutions.



Call for 2025 Awards

Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section

Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award

This award recognizes career contributions that have articulated a novel theoretical or methodological perspective or synthesis that addresses a significant problem in the literature.

Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award

This award is given to an individual who has fostered excellence in, and had a major impact on, the field by virtue of their mentoring, and whose inspiration is sought by students and colleagues.

Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award

This award recognizes original and innovative publications on aging and life course research in the behavioral and social sciences in two categories: (1) Book Category and (2) Article Category.

***New Award* Mid-Career Innovation Award**

This award acknowledges outstanding and innovative contributions of an established mid-career member of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section.

Biological Sciences (BS) Section

Nathan Shock New Investigator Award

This award recognizes innovative and influential publications by an early career professional (Assistant Professor or Associate Professor level).

It acknowledges outstanding contributions to new knowledge about aging through basic biological research.

Health Sciences (HS) Section

Joseph T. Freeman Award

This award is given to a prominent clinician in the field of aging, both in research and practice.

Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award

This award is designed to acknowledge outstanding contributions in the field of rehabilitation of aging persons.

Mid-Career Innovation Award

This award acknowledges outstanding contributions of an established mid-career GSA member of the Health Science section to an innovative and influential area of the field in research and/or practice.

Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) Section

Elaine M. Brody SRPP Thought Leader Award

This award acknowledges outstanding career contributions in social research, policy, and practice.

Barbara J. Berkman SRPP Award for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Research, Practice, or Policy in Aging and Health Care

This award recognizes individuals whose professional work mirrors the varied accomplishments and attributes of Dr. Barbara Berkman's career. It honors individuals who have contributed to the well-being of older persons through many years of significant and very substantive contributions to research, practice and policy in aging and health care services.

Carroll L. Estes SRPP Rising Star Award

This award acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in social research, policy, and practice.

JournalNews

Editor-in-Chief Transition for *Innovation in Aging*

- Editorial by Michelle Putnam, MGS, PhD, FGSA: [Advancing Innovation](#)
- Editorial by Steven Albert, PhD, FGSA: [From the Outgoing Editor-in-Chief of Innovation in Aging](#)

Call for Papers

- [Artificial Intelligence and Aging](#) (*The Gerontologist*)
- [Social Determinants of Gerontological Health, Functioning, and Well-Being](#) (*The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*)
- [Translational Geroscience](#) (*The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*)

New Issues

- [Special Issue: Redefining Successful Aging](#) (*The Gerontologist*)

- [Special Issue: Toledo Study for Healthy Ageing](#) (*Biological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*)
- [Supplement: Studying Cognition in the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project: Methodological and Analytic Considerations, Strategies and Findings From Round 4](#) (*Social Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*)

New Articles Added to Cross-Journal Article Collections

- [Nutrition](#) (New collection)
- [National Institute on Aging's 50th anniversary](#)
- [Caregiving](#)
- [Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)



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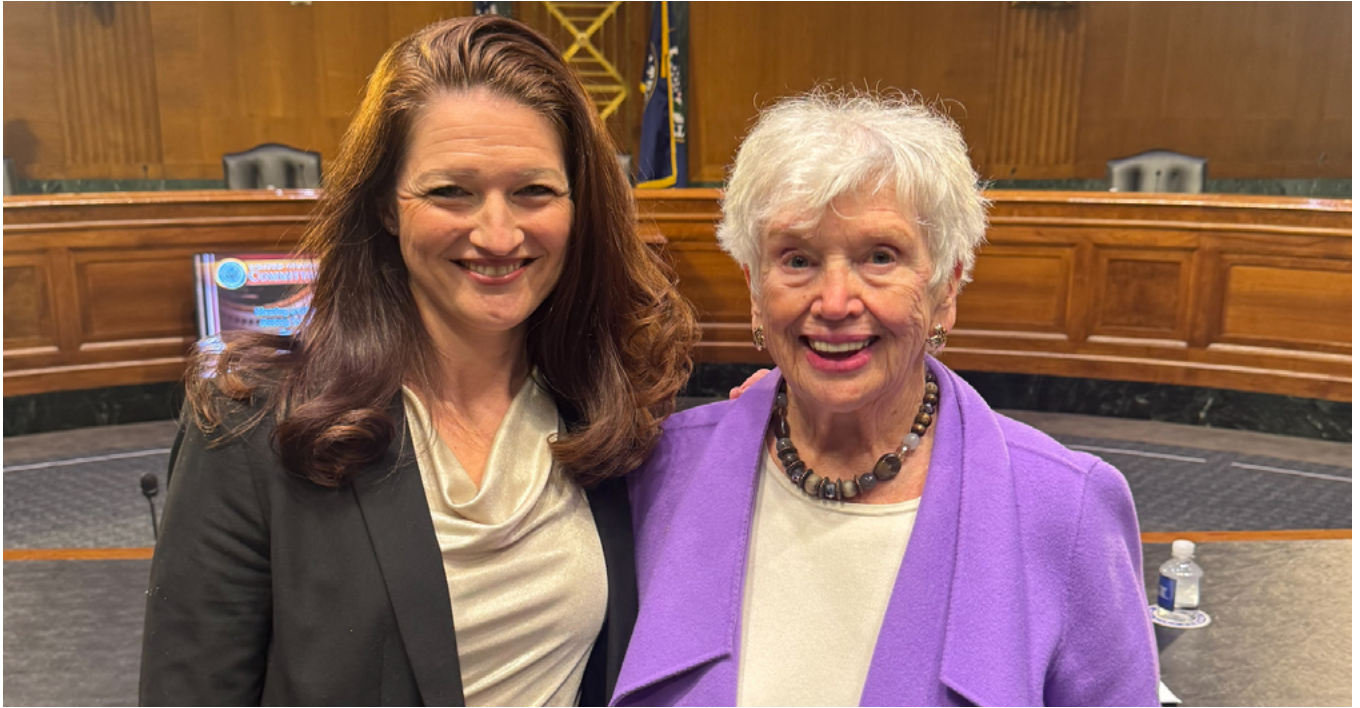
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exposures, and behaviors that occur well before we reach our later years,” said Carr, director of the Claude Pepper Center at Florida State University.” Although the consequences of regular harmful exposures and habitual behaviors accumulate to erode health over time, there is growing evidence that if we intervene during critical inflection periods, we can modify health trajectories and bolster physiological resilience as we age.”

[In her testimony](#), Carr added that creating a society enriched by a large group of healthy older people will require a new framework for aging policy, guided by several key principles: an emphasis on health maintenance at every stage of life targeting risks related to aging-associated diseases and disabilities; acknowledgement of the developmental changes that occur as people move into and through later life, including the way older adults’ unique strengths benefit society; and an emphasis on the barriers to healthy aging that result in significant inequalities in health outcomes as people age.

[Testimony from Hughes](#), who serves as the founding director of the Center for Research on Health and Aging at the University of Illinois Chicago, addressed the limitations of current funding for health promotion programs for older adults and recommended a transformational re-thinking of the nation’s current focus on acute and post-acute care. She noted that despite overwhelming evidence supporting the importance of physical activity for healthy aging, participation in and maintenance of physical activity is still sub-optimal in the U.S.

“At a minimum, we need to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. We also need to increase funding for Title III D and create a new title explicitly for physical activity programming,” Hughes said. “Ultimately, however, we will see much bigger returns if we develop demonstrations and/or regulations or reimbursement mechanisms that support the dissemination of and access to evidence-based health promotion programs as extensively as possible through Medicare.”

AGHE Vice Chair Recaps 2024 Teaching Institute; Outlines Vision for Term



*By Laura K.M. Donorfio,
PhD, FAGHE*

Colleagues, it is with great pleasure that this new year brings with it my term as the AGHE vice chair. There is always an excitement to starting fresh, with hope, possibilities, and renewed energy. As I reflect on what is meaningful in my life (past and present), AGHE continues to rise to the top. I have been a gerontological educator for over 30 years, and AGHE has been instrumental in defining who I am as a gerontologist.

Before joining the [University of Connecticut](#), I was a corporate gerontologist and director of consumer research for The Hartford Financial Services Group, collaborating with AARP and the MIT AgeLab. In a research department of over 50, I was the only gerontologist. One of my responsibilities was to train and educate employees about older adults, their families, and aging. There was, and still is, an excitement in bringing others into my world and the world of aging, mainly opening their eyes to ageism and its impact.

My goals as AGHE vice-chair and future chair are to work more closely with the [GSA member groups](#) to identify areas of interdisciplinary collaboration and growth for gerontological and geriatric education. I hope to increase training, activities, and resources capturing the intersectionality of age, aging, and diversity and to continue our educational efforts to dismantle ageism. No matter what area we are in or at what level, it all starts with the bedrock of a solid gerontological education.

Toward the growth of gerontological and geriatric education, I want to spotlight AGHE's Teaching Institute pre-conference program at the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting.

Now 13 years strong, the 2024 topic was "Utilizing Advocacy and Impacting Policy in Aging-Related Classes." It was a stellar experience, with participants signing up from different GSA member groups and disciplines. A team of nine, led by [Dr. Angie Perone](#) from the University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare, pulled together a workshop and instructional workbook that lays out a broader vision of policy and advocacy (i.e., micro, meso, and macro) and how different spaces (i.e., teaching, program, organizational, and research) utilize different tools to construct an impactful advocacy plan.

Participants spent time rotating among three different stations addressing advocacy from the vantages of teaching, campus, and research. Pertinent domains of [AGHE's Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education](#) were also highlighted. The pleasure of networking with others in our field, gaining connections, and gaining new perspectives is an added, priceless benefit. Stay tuned for this year's topic; I hope you can join us.

In my mind, I hear the tagline, "lifelong living" (akin to lifelong learning). How this conceptualization can help us build an intergenerational societal structure with meaning and purpose at any age, I look forward to working with all of you.

Thank you

To the following GSA members who participated in GSA's Member Referral program in 2024. Your support is truly appreciated.

Donna Alexander	Isabelle Gagne	Peter A. Lichtenberg	Christopher L. Seplaki
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GerontologyNews

Volume 56 | Issue No 1 | January 2025



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Gerontology News (ISSN 1083 222X) is published monthly by the Gerontological Society of America, 1101 14th Street NW, Suite 1220, Washington, DC 20005.