



Innovative Horizons in Gerontology



By Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, ASGF, FNAOME

## New GSA President Shares Inaugural Message

### Inside this Issue

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#### From the CEO

Age Inclusivity in Higher Education

The GSA Board of Directors and staff are full speed ahead with planning the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting that will be held in Boston from November 12 to 15. It is a good time to prepare your abstracts as February 1 will be the opening date for submissions.

The theme that will frame the 2025 meeting is “Innovative Horizons in Gerontology.” During this year, as president, I am eager to engage you as GSA moves our priorities forward for all things gerontological dedicated to achieving meaningful lives as we age.

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#### Policy News

Washington’s 2024 Wrap-Up

### Lifelong Learning and Longevity Intersect GSA Assesses Implications for Higher Education

Age inclusivity has the potential to provide solutions to fiscal challenges facing higher education, according to “Learners for Life: The Future of Higher Education in the Era of Longevity.”

This new publication in the Gerontological Society of America’s (GSA) Insights & Implications series highlights activities of the Society’s Age Inclusivity in Higher Education initiative and others as fortuitous responses to population shifts, rapid changes and radical transformations in the workplace, delays in seeking



higher education, and the need for added education touchpoints across the lifespan.

The publication, supported by the TIAA Institute, was also the subject of

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#### GSA Fellow Nominations

Deadline: February 15

### 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

## Higher Education Can Thrive by Fostering Age-Inclusive Campuses



By James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH  
[jappleby@geron.org](mailto:jappleby@geron.org)

Happy new year, and welcome to the spring semester for the majority of GSA's membership based at educational institutions. The story on this month's *Gerontology News* cover looks at what could lie ahead for this vital sector, with the new GSA Insights & Implication publication titled "[Learners for Life: The Future of Higher Education in the Era of Longevity.](#)"

This is the latest resource to be introduced as part of GSA's [Age Inclusivity in Higher Education initiative](#). GSA is here to support its members who are trying to integrate age-inclusive principles into their academic environments. This is an important topic because many universities and colleges are forecasting a drop in enrollment in the coming years while shifts in employment, and the impact of artificial intelligence, may also necessitate additional education for people who need or want to work longer.

Among the reasons for fluctuations in enrollment numbers are declining birth rates, the COVID-19 pandemic, costs of higher education, a decline in the perceived value of higher education, and the availability of career opportunities that do not require a degree. But educational institutions can continue to thrive by putting people and systems in place to make offerings more attractive and compelling for non-traditional students across their career course.

There are many opportunities to recruit students entering or re-entering the workforce after child-rearing, caregiving, or unemployment. Others may need training or certifications needed for new types of work demanded by a workplace

transformed by the wide application of artificial intelligence. Career changes or retirement transitions to consulting or self-employment may require new education credentials as well.

The new publication was developed with support from the TIAA Institute, the think tank of TIAA focused on promoting financial security and leadership excellence in the higher education, nonprofit, and public sectors.

The head of the Institute, Surya Kolluri, is a member of GSA's Corporate Leaders Forum. I recently joined him at a TIAA Institute Fellows Symposium in Philadelphia on "Framing the Future of Higher Education," where speakers examined the socioeconomic and technological forces reshaping higher education with an audience including presidents, provosts, and human resources executives from colleges and universities. Surya and I shared key insights from the new report and how an age-inclusive approach can be one strategy for universities to deploy as they navigate the permanent demographic changes underway.

I applaud the TIAA Institute for sharing our vision and providing thought leadership on the issue of age inclusivity to representatives of higher education.

GSA members, too, can become active in this space. GSA has an [Age Inclusivity in Higher Education Interest Group](#), and the [GSA Enrich learning platform](#) has a number of resources. This includes back issues of the *Age Inclusivity in Higher Education Newsletter*, which is sent to members quarterly.

# MemberNews

## Honors/Appointments/Career Transitions

**Roland J. Thorpe Jr., PhD, FGSA**, has been named on the annual Highly Cited Researchers list compiled by Clarivate Analytics. He is a professor in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**Allen Glicksman, PhD, MA, FGSA**, has received the Charles H. Ewing Presidential Award from the Eastern Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society. He also has been asked to co-lead the Thematic Working Group on Healthcare and Social Services for the International Migration Research Network's Standing Committee on Families, Welfare, Care

and the Life Course. Glicksman is an embedded scientist at NewCourtland.

**Tara McKay, PhD, MA**, has earned the 2024 NIH Sexual & Gender Minority Mid-Career Investigator Award from the National Institutes of Health Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office. GSA, working with its Rainbow Research Group Interest Group, submitted a letter of support on McKay's behalf. She is an associate professor, director of the LGBTQ+ Policy Lab, and associate director of the Center for Research on Inequality and Health at Vanderbilt University.

### In Memoriam



**Leonard D. Cain Jr., PhD, FGSA**, passed away in summer 2024 at age 99. In 1969, he accepted a tenured position at Portland State University (PSU), where he focused much of his

work on gerontology. At PSU, he helped create and build the Urban Studies program and the Institute on Aging. In the field of sociology, Cain was an early pioneer of the life course approach to the study of aging. He retired from PSU in 1997.

### Member Referral Program

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

**Christina Keny, PhD** (who referred new member **Hemant Keny, PhD**)

To learn how you can become eligible, visit: [www.geron.org/referral](http://www.geron.org/referral).

We welcome member submissions at [news@geron.org](mailto:news@geron.org).

### GSA Welcomes 2025 Policy Intern Applications

GSA is seeking three internship candidates to participate in an eight-week in-person summer experience in Washington, DC. Interns will be immersed in aging-related policy development and participate in this process at the national level.

The application period is open until January 31.

Learn more at [geron.org/policyinterns](http://geron.org/policyinterns)



2024 interns Samuel Van Vleet, Maizonne Fields, Jeein Jang inside the U.S. Capitol

## Recent Policy Actions



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



**Thomas Jordan Miles III, BA**  
Director of Policy

Visit [www.geron.org/advocacy](http://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 of Neurological Disorders and Stroke regarding priorities and progress in Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (ADRD) research as part of the [ADRD Summit 2022 Research Milestones](#), highlighting the Society's evidence-based [GSA KAER Toolkit for Brain Health](#).

GSA responded to [a request for comment from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health](#) regarding the Vaccines National Strategic Plan, highlighting the Society's [National Adult Vaccination Program and its Concentric Value of Vaccination as We Age initiative](#).

GSA responded to a [request for information](#) from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [regarding research strategies for addressing obesity heterogeneity](#), highlighting the Society's evidence-based [Toolkit for the Management of Obesity in Older Adults](#).

GSA supported the [reauthorization of the Older Americans Act](#) in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which includes funding increases. The Senate unanimously voted for reauthorization on December 10.

GSA CEO James Appleby joined policy staff members Trish D'Antonio and Jordan Miles to represent the Society at the [National Alliance for Caregiving's Caregiver Nation Summit](#), which sought to elevate the voices of family caregivers to transform policy.

## As Bowl Games Approached, Congress Punted

**By Brian Lindberg, MMHS, FGSA**  
GSA Policy Advisor

First, let me wish you a happy and healthy new year. You may have noticed that the federal government avoided a shutdown last month that many thought possible. On December 20 and 21, Congress passed and President Joe Biden signed another continuing resolution (CR) as the last legislation of the 118th

Congress – [H.R.10545](#) – the [American Relief Act, 2025](#) (P.L. 118-158).

This action delayed completing the 12 funding bills for FY 2025 until at least March 14 when this CR expires. By now we are familiar with the typical end of the year CR process lumping in



other must-pass bills, and a bipartisan wish list ending in a giant legislative package, but this year was different. The process was altered this holiday season by – for the first time in my memory – the incoming president and a billionaire friend and appointee (Elon Musk) playing the Grinch and killing the package after both parties had signed off on the deal.

It was interesting to see how Musk’s threat of funding primary election challengers swayed the members of the House. The middleman, House Speaker Mike Johnson, was forced to go back to the drawing board and cut many of the bipartisan provisions, including the Older Americans Act reauthorization, and push a “skinny” bill through the House.

The drama may have exposed some limits to a Republican power trifecta. The primary demand of the president-elect was to raise the debt limit before he came into office. Raising the debt ceiling has been used as leverage by Republicans against Democratic presidents in the past. He failed to convince Congress to include this in the CR package.

The American Relief Act, 2025 includes more than \$110 billion in disaster relief. The new law also includes the short-term extensions of the Acute Hospital at Home waiver program and telehealth waivers under Medicare and a one-year extension of the Farm Bill.

[Chair Tom Cole](#) and [Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro](#) on the House Appropriations Committee both shared their insights in statements on the legislation.

One proposal that the Grinch stole was the bipartisan Older Americans Act primarily written in the Senate but agreed to by the House, although the House had cut the funding increase from 4.62 percent each year to flat funding.

Also dropped in the deal were provisions that reformed the pharmacy benefit manager program, nearly all Medicaid provisions, an extension of [the SUPPORT Act](#) addressing the opioid crisis, and provider payment increases in response to planned cuts under the Physician Fee Schedule.

A new Congress starts from scratch with reintroduction of legislation, and it remains to be seen whether any of these bills will move quickly in the 119th Congress with new leadership and many new members.

One also wonders how appropriations negotiations will differ in the 119th Congress with a new Republican 53 to 47 majority in the Senate. With the exception of the budget reconciliation process which requires a simple majority for passage, funding bills will still need 60 votes in the Senate to avoid the filibuster, but plans are in the making to use the reconciliation process to push the new administration’s priorities, including tax cuts, immigration, and possibly changes to the Affordable Care Act, among other things.

As Robert F. Kennedy said in a 1966 speech, “Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty, but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind.” His son, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., may now have a great deal of influence on how we move health and aging policy forward in a positive fashion.

I am looking forward to working with you and your creativity and commitment in 2025.





# GSA 2025

## November 12–15

# BOSTON, MA

## Innovative Horizons in Gerontology

We have a path mapped out by our new GSA strategic plan, and the 2025 conference theme offers any number of approaches to advance the field of aging.

One of my mantras may apply here: “For those who think the sky is the limit, consider they have a limited imagination!” The beauty of this theme is to encourage all GSA members, including our rising number of undergraduate students, to be pioneering and courageous. Share your research outcomes, your creativity in education, and your innovations that enhance mindfulness and opportunities in our field – close to home and abroad. We, as a Society, have the skills to reach new horizons and address any challenges.

For those who may be meeting me for the first time, I am a professor in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE COM) in Maine. Within this role, I am also the director for geriatrics education and research and the founding director for U-ExCEL (UNE-Exercise and Conditioning for Easier Living), an older adult fitness/wellness program that contracts with a Life Care Community.

In October, UNE COM was the first osteopathic medical school to be awarded the AGHE Program of Merit designation as we have 47 hours of required geriatrics competencies integrated into our medical education courses in years one and two. Of importance is that 80 percent of the geriatrics content is conducted with older people of all socio-economic and education

backgrounds within the community and in long-term care living environments at all levels.

I mention our focus on geriatrics only because the word gerontology was selected for our 2025 theme; clearly health professions education and practice are very much a part of GSA. Our members are involved in diverse areas of research, education, practice, and policy in the field of aging making our society inclusive of gerontology and geriatrics. This inclusivity makes it clear that we embrace the broad spectrum of approaches and professions to advance our field.

Regardless of the type of professional environment and focus each of us has regarding aging, innovative horizons is something we all strive for to improve service and care for all of us across the globe as we age.

Our 2025 theme is a call for all GSA members and future members to innovate and participate with GSA as leaders within the field of aging.

Thank you for your contributions,

**Marilyn R. Gugliucci,**  
MA, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, AGSF,  
FNAOME

## ESPO Highlights Ways to Become Engaged with GSA in 2025



By Kallol Kumar  
Bhattacharyya MBBS,  
MA, PhD

As ESPO rings in the new year, we celebrate the successes of 2024 and make plans to make GSA more eventful and prosperous in 2025. ESPO remains a home for all GSA undergraduate, student, and transitional members. On behalf of the newsletter team, this month, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to highlight some of the standout activities of 2024 and share a path forward in 2025 for all ESPO members.

### ESPO Highlights of 2024

As always, the Annual Scientific Meeting is the cynosure and the most memorable part of the year for most GSA members. In November, early-career scholars connected and networked with their colleagues across the country at the annual ESPO breakfast event and networking reception at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle. These opportunities to meet scholars support the foundation of a strong collaborative network within GSA.

Throughout the year, the [ESPO Dissertation and Pre-Proposal Writing Groups](#) provide structure, feedback, and opportunities to network with other scholars in the same stage of writing as you.

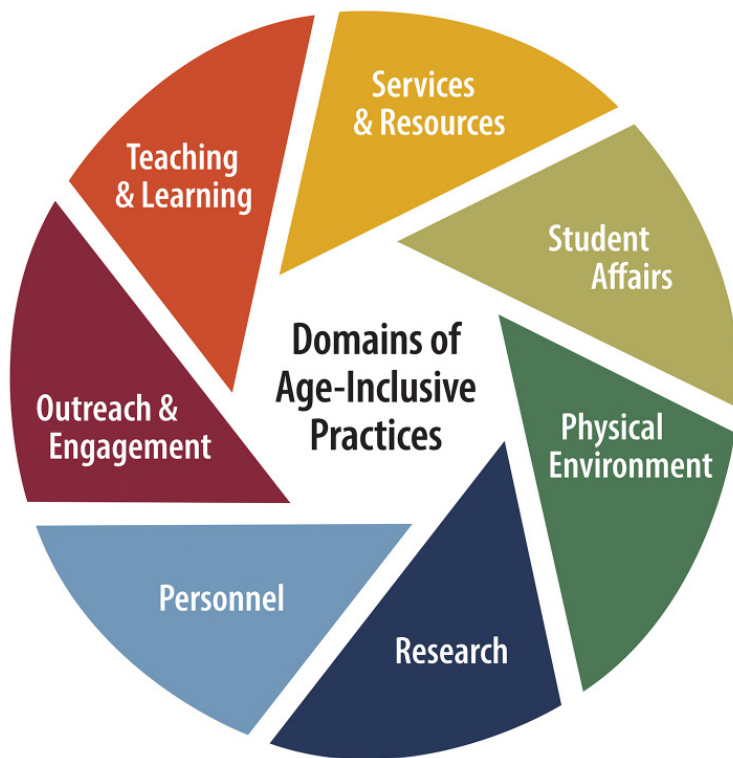
ESPO also hosts webinars on "Mentorship for Early Career Scholars." This event shares insight into successful transitions into early-career positions, mentorship, and career development. These webinars are an excellent opportunity to learn about topics relevant to early-career scholars and connect with peers throughout the year. ESPO routinely hosts spring and fall webinars on rotating topics of interest to early-career scholars so ESPO members can continue to schedule webinars into the new year.

### Making 2025 More Prosperous

We want you to remain aware of every ESPO event. Make sure to join the ESPO community on [GSA Connect](#) and subscribe to GSA social media accounts on [X/Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#) to keep on top of all ESPO news. Although the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting is just behind us, it is time to mark your calendars for the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, from November 12 to 15. Abstract submissions and a call for reviewers are currently scheduled to open on February 1. In the summer, keep an eye on GSA Connect and GSA social media accounts for information on late-breaking submission deadlines. One of the best ways to commit to engaging with ESPO throughout the year is to volunteer.

Volunteering with ESPO is a fantastic way to gain valuable service experience, build connections, and help shape events that matter to you. [Volunteer opportunities](#) range in commitment from one-day opportunities to multi-year positions. The responsibilities of ESPO volunteers vary based on the role, and opportunities are posted throughout the year in the GSA portal. Applications for volunteer positions, such as section junior leaders, task force members, and co-leads, typically open in the fall, but some opportunities are posted year-round.

We look forward to connecting with you throughout 2025. We welcome your suggestions and interest in ESPO at any time: feel free to contact us at [espo@geron.org](mailto:espo@geron.org)!



a Momentum Discussion during the GSA 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle. In addition to the decline in students at colleges and universities because of lower birth rates and the COVID-19 pandemic, today's students are older, more likely to attend part-time, and more likely to seek graduate education. Among undergraduates, nearly one-fourth are at least 25 years old, with some interacting with faculty online and others on campus.

The domains of age-inclusive practices are featured prominently throughout the publication as it provides a framework for how institutions are expanding their services.

Case studies aligned with the seven domains are presented:

**1. Teaching and Learning:** The University of Connecticut's Careers in Aging program and the Nexel Collaborative, composed of 25 colleges and universities, including the Arizona State University's Distinguished Innovation Fellows program, the University of Minnesota's Advanced Careers Initiative,

the University of Southern California's Distinguished Leaders program, and the University of Texas at Austin' TOWER Fellows Program.

**2. Services and Resources:** The University of Manitoba micro-certificate program in Facilitating Older Adult Learning and the Northern Kentucky University's Caregiving Across Campus program.

**3. Student Affairs:** The Northeastern Illinois University support model for advising non-traditional undergraduate and graduate students.

**4. Physical Environment:** The Arizona State University, home of "Mirabella," a continuing care intergenerational university-based retirement community.

**5. Research:** The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus' Intergenerational Research Team.

**6. Personnel:** The University of Minnesota's Age-Friendly Council.

**7. Outreach and Engagement:** The Washington University in St. Louis Friedman Center for Aging's Your Next Move: Transitioning to the New Retirement program. Other programs include the University of California, Berkeley's Retirement Center, the campus-based retirement community Lasell Village at Lasell University in Massachusetts, and the TIAA Institute's The New Retirement Mosaic in an Era of Longevity program.

Joann Montepare, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE, and Nina Silverstein, PhD, FGSA, served as faculty for the report along with contributors from the TIAA Institute, Surya Kolluri, MBA, MS, CRPC and Anne Ollen, Med, CEBS.





## GSA Fellows Nominations

Fellow status is the highest category of GSA membership, awarded to members who demonstrate exceptional contributions to gerontology through research, teaching, public service, and practice. It also reflects active engagement in advancing GSA's mission and impact across the field.

**Nominations open December 15, 2024 through February 15, 2025.**

Find out more about nomination requirements and procedures at [geron.org/fellows](https://geron.org/fellows).



**NEW VERSION**

# GSA Connect



**GSA Connect, the exclusive online networking platform for GSA members, has a fresh new look and enhanced features.**

**Training guides and resources are now available to help you get the most out of the updated platform.**

 **LOG IN**  
**TODAY**

# JournalNews

## New Issues

- [Public Policy and Aging Research: After 50 Years of the National Institute on Aging](#) (Public Policy & Aging Report)
- [Program Abstracts from the GSA 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting, "The Fortitude Factor"](#) (Innovation in Aging)

## Call for Papers

- [Artificial Intelligence and Aging](#) (The Gerontologist)

## New Articles in Cross-Journal Article Collections

- [Caregiving Collection](#)
- [Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Collection](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Articles](#)

## Call for Applications: Three Journal Editor-in-Chief Openings

The GSA Program, Publications, and Products Committee is conducting a search for positions of editor-in-chief for the following journals, to become effective January 1, 2026:

- [Medical Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology Series A](#)
- [Social Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology Series B](#)
- [Gerontology & Geriatrics Education](#)

## Become a Journal Reviewer

A new year is a great time to become a [peer reviewer for any of the GSA journals](#). Your role as a peer reviewer is not just essential, it's invaluable in maintaining research quality. GSA deeply appreciates the thousands of reviewers who volunteer their time and expertise to its Journals.

- [The Gerontologist](#)
- [Innovation in Aging](#)
- The Journals of Gerontology Series A: [Biological Sciences](#) and [Medical Sciences](#)
- The Journals of Gerontology Series B: [Psychological Sciences](#) and [Social Sciences](#)

## Series B Welcomes New Associate Editor



The Psychological Sciences section of [The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences](#) has announced the appointment of Elizabeth Muñoz, PhD, FGSA as associate editor. Muñoz is an assistant professor of human development and family sciences at the University of Texas at Austin, where she directs the Cognition Health and Aging Research Team.

## Lifelong Learning Communities: Promising Opportunities for Gerontology Students

By *Kate Schaefers*  
PhD, LP

*Kari Fagan, BA*

*Craig A. Talmage,*  
PhD

*R. Jack Hansen,*  
PhD

Lifelong learning promotes brain health, emotional well-being, and social connection among older adults. Gerontology professionals (students, researchers, and faculty) can also benefit from engaging in lifelong learning institutes (LLIs). Partnership between gerontology professionals and LLIs can result in improved research, communal impact, and even personal career development.

Many LLIs operate on campuses with meaningful connections to their local communities. Over 120 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs) are hosted by universities and colleges across the United States and are represented in all 50 states. This national network is the legacy of philanthropist Bernard Osher. Below are examples for creating valuable partnerships with local LLIs.

### Education

Graduate students gain valuable experience by teaching non-credit courses to engaged learners at an LLI. Graduate students learn to organize a course, and to enthusiastically communicate their research in layman's terms. Each year OLLI at the University of Minnesota hires graduate students to teach courses through their [OLLI Scholars program](#). Graduate students report that this applied experience helps them in the job market. Faculty also appreciate teaching for OLLIs. They value the ability to choose the topic, teach without the burden of tests or grades, and work with OLLI learners who are highly engaged and come with significant life experience.

### Mentoring

OLLI learners can be paired with students as a mentoring relationship, deepening the

learning experience for both. [OLLI at University of Arkansas](#) pairs OLLI volunteers with nursing students to learn from each other. At Furman University, OLLI members help undergraduate students evaluate post college career and continuing education options.

### Research

OLLIs are ideal partners for community-based participatory research. Researchers can recruit research participants through OLLIs and engage older adults in the research design process. OLLI at Arizona State University initiated a partnership with the [Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging](#), comparing OLLI responses to non-OLLI folks in their surveys of older adults. They also conducted in-depth interviews with OLLI learners on [Big Questions](#), [Family Stories](#), and [Lifelong Pursuits](#), and engaged them in a reflection of [their experiences pre-and-post-COVID-19](#).

### Outreach

With a vibrant, curious, and motivated community of learners who represent diverse professional and personal experiences, OLLIs offer powerful opportunities for gerontology professionals to meaningfully engage with older adults. OLLIs can be a place to disseminate research findings to the public, address community needs, and stay connected with the communities they serve.

By connecting with LLIs, gerontology professionals can enhance their own professional development and increase their impact. [Check to see if there is an OLLI on your campus](#)



Innovative Horizons in Gerontology

[gsa2025.org](http://gsa2025.org)

GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA® | ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

## Get Ready to Submit for GSA 2025

### Call for Abstracts | Submissions Open February 1–March 13

Shape the future of aging scholarship. Submit your posters, papers, or symposia for GSA 2025 and get published in *Innovation in Aging*.

### Call for Reviewers | Applications Open February 1–28

GSA members, be part of the program's backbone. Volunteer as a reviewer and help highlight the best in gerontology scholarship.

### Host a Workshop | Applications Open February 1–March 13

Engage your peers with hands-on learning at GSA's workshops, offered daily during the four-day meeting.

## GerontologyNews

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