



February 10, 2022

*Re: Dr. Adrienne Aiken-Morgan's Nomination for GSA Fellow Status*

Dear GSA Fellows Selection Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that we submit this letter to nominate and endorse Dr. Adrienne Aiken Morgan's application for Fellow status in the Behavioral and Social Sciences' (BSS) section of The Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Dr. Aiken Morgan is deserving of this prestigious status, as her scholarship has advanced the Gerontology discipline.

Dr. Aiken Morgan first joined the GSA organization as a clinical psychology graduate student at the University of Florida and has made it her professional home. She has been a committed member of the Emerging Scholar and Professionals Organization (ESPO) and Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) attending Annual Meetings and showing exceptional leadership for over a decade.

Over the years, she has served in many volunteer and leadership positions: BSS Section Student Paper Award Committee (Chair-Elect, 2011; Chair, 2012; Past-Chair, 2013); ESPO BSS Representative (November 2008-November 2010); Minority Issues in Gerontology Advisory Panel (November 2013-2021; Community Liaison (2013-2016); Chair-Elect (2017-2018); Chair (2018-2020); Past-Chair (2020-2021)); GSA Awards Committee MIG Representative (2013-2017); GSA Diversity and Justice Working Group Member (2020-2021); and GSA Health and Safety Advisory Panel Member (2021). She has made substantial contributions to the GSA during her time on the Minority Issues in Gerontology Advisory Panel, providing stable and continuity in leadership as this group transitioned from being a task force to committee, and then to an advisory panel during her years as Chair. She also led the Advisory Panel's Call to Action on racism and discrimination in June 2020 in response to the murder of George Floyd.

In addition to her service in the organization, Dr. Aiken Morgan has made substantial contributions to the field of aging research. Trained as a clinical psychologist and gerontologist, her program of research has two areas of focus: 1) how social and health disparities influence individual differences in cognitive aging; and 2) the development and implementation of community-based physical and cognitive health interventions to enhance cognitive aging and reduce dementia risk. She has over 60 conference presentations (a majority at GSA Annual Meetings), 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 3 book chapters. In addition, she has several NIA and NSF-funded grants studying the intersections of sociodemographics, cognition, and health. She has also been an investigator in several major longitudinal studies of aging: The ACTIVE study (PI: Rebok), the Minority Aging Research Study (PI: Barnes), and the Baltimore Study of Black Aging (PI: Whitfield).

Currently, Dr. Aiken Morgan is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Geropsychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Department of Psychiatry. She is contributing to the mission to

increase aging-related research and clinical services to older adults in the state of North Carolina. In addition, she has a deep passion for mentoring students and trainees, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds. As such, she is the Associate Director for Research Training, of the UNC Clinical Psychology Internship Program. Her aspiration is to both advance health equity among the most vulnerable aging populations and train the next generations of diverse scholars.

In closing, Dr. Adrienne Aiken Morgan is an *exemplary* and *outstanding* scholar and leader in the field of aging research. As Fellows in the BSS section of GSA, we support Dr. Aiken Morgan's nomination with much enthusiasm and without reservation.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need any additional information regarding the nomination of Dr. Aiken Morgan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tamara Baker



Dr. Alyssa Gamaldo



Dr. Regina Wright

