



Call for Abstracts

Open: December 15, 2011

Close: March 15, 2012

geron.org/abstracts

GSA SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING **NOVEMBER 14-18, 2012**
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Charting New Frontiers in Aging



SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

GSA continually strives to provide the gerontological community with the most advanced research and education. Present at this year's Annual Scientific Meeting to an engaged audience of professional peers, gain exposure of your work, and advance your career.

A Message from the President



Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to present your aging research at The Gerontological Society of America's 65th Annual Scientific Meeting. The theme for this event, taking place from November 14 to 18 in San Diego, is "Charting New Frontiers in Aging."

For over six decades, GSA members have increased our knowledge of aging and, as a result, improved the lives of people as they age. We will celebrate these contributions while creating a forum for breakthroughs in research and creative new responses to long-standing dilemmas. Charting implies connections — within and across disciplines, professions, individuals, cohorts, generations, systems, environments, cultures and nations. By charting connections, we move beyond our personal insights and investigations to achieve a deeper and more meaningful understanding of aging and its implications.

In preparing abstract submissions for this meeting, consider the impact of your work on our scientific and scholarly understanding of aging, and how this knowledge impacts lives. Individual and population aging are shaped by a mixture of influences, which are experienced in different ways. Be thought-provoking and explore new frontiers.

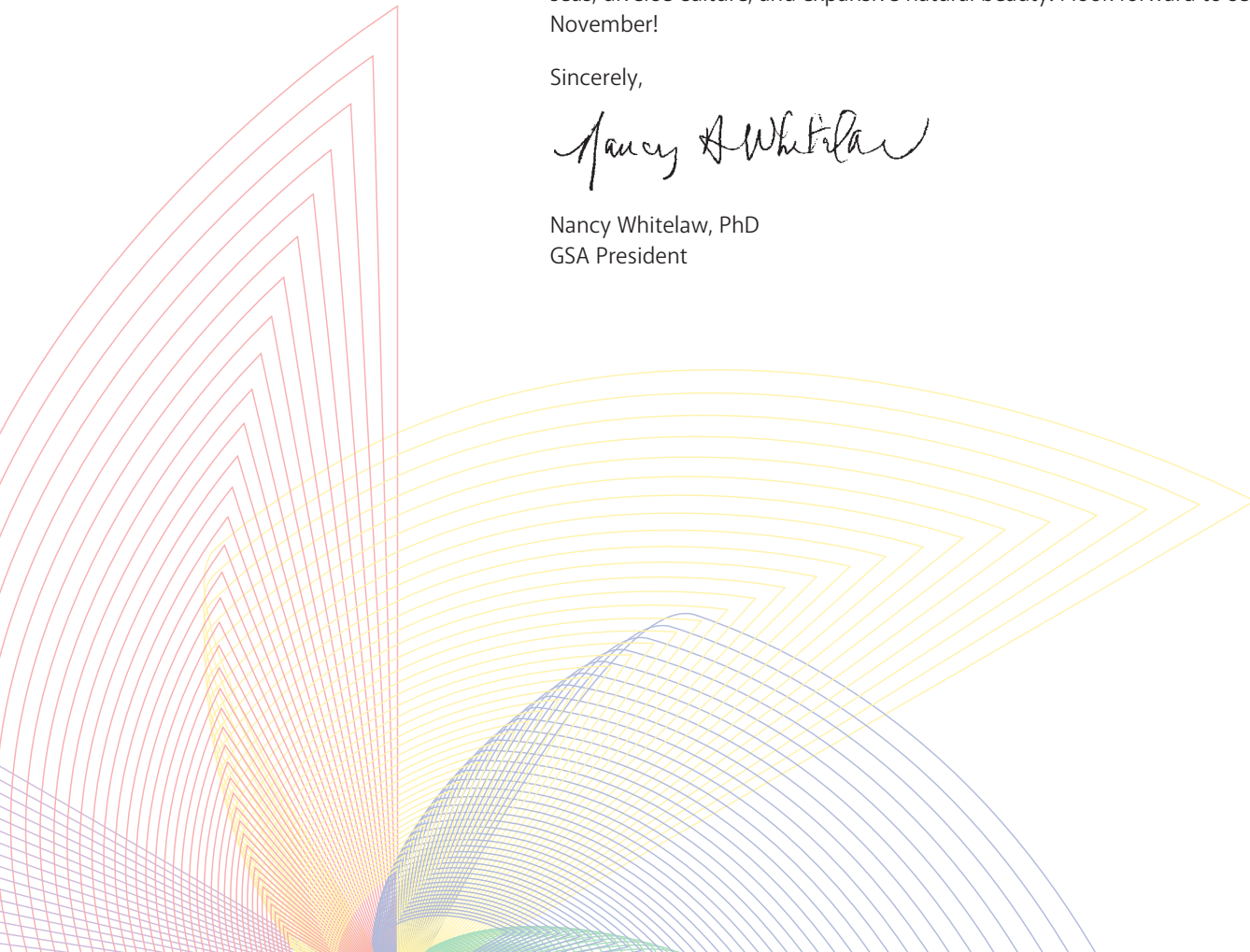
Please be mindful of the abstract deadline, which is March 15, 2012. GSA's meeting increasingly is seen as the premier venue for interdisciplinary aging research. The Society proudly invites submissions for a broad array of interdisciplinary symposia, papers, and posters.

"Charting New Frontiers in Aging" should make you think of San Diego with its open seas, diverse culture, and expansive natural beauty. I look forward to seeing you there in November!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Whitelaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nancy Whitelaw, PhD
GSA President



General Information

The program is organized around the four sections of GSA: **Behavioral and Social Sciences; Biological Sciences; Health Sciences;** and **Social Research, Policy and Practice**. When you submit an abstract, you are applying to one of these four sections.

Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS)

Submissions are sought that address topics related to the full range of behavioral and social science issues in gerontology. Proposed symposia should include multiple perspectives on important scholarly and educational issues in gerontology and can be submitted by emerging scholars and all levels of professionals.

Biological Sciences (BS)

Submissions are sought that report on research relevant to the fundamental biological processes of aging.



The Biological Sciences and Health Sciences Sections will jointly sponsor a "Late Breaker" Poster Session. Please check www.geron.org/abstracts for submission details in July.

Health Sciences (HS)

Submissions are sought that reflect a broad range of multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary clinical, health services, epidemiologic, and translational research. Physicians, nurses, dentists, nutritionists, therapists, doctoral trainee scientists, and other professionals conducting clinical and population research on the health of older persons will present and discuss their work with a multidisciplinary audience. Submissions that cross disciplinary boundaries are encouraged.



Social Research, Policy and Practice (SRPP)

Submissions are sought that address the promotion of the social well being of older people through the scientific study of the social, political, and economic contexts of aging. Symposium submissions that emphasize a theoretical perspective are particularly sought. Also encouraged are abstract submissions that reflect scholarly collaboration between beginning and senior investigators.

Each year, one SRPP symposium is designated as the Ollie Randall Symposium. This recognition is given to a high-quality submission that examines cutting-edge issues with broad implications for policy or practice. All symposia submissions will automatically be considered.

Other Units of GSA

There are several other units of GSA that are involved in the planning of the program:

The Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) is designed to provide new and emerging scholars with an opportunity to actively engage in the field of gerontology. All GSA members who are full-time students (undergraduate or graduate), postdoctoral trainees/fellows, or individuals who have recently transitioned from a student/trainee position into a junior faculty/professional position are considered ESPO members. ESPO members may submit abstracts to any of the Society's sections.

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), the educational branch of GSA, is an institutional membership organization composed of over 300 colleges, universities, private businesses, and government organizations that provide education, training, and research programs in the field of aging. The purpose of AGHE is to advance gerontology and geriatrics education in academic institutions. AGHE will consider co-sponsoring symposia from any GSA sections that address

research objectives related to the delivery or outcomes of education and training in gerontology or geriatrics.

The National Academy on an Aging Society is GSA's policy institute. As a non-partisan public policy institute, the Academy actively conducts and compiles research on issues related to population aging and provides information to the public, the press, policymakers, and the academic community.

Submitting an Abstract

Abstract/Session Formats

Abstracts are submitted as paper, poster, or symposium presentations (which include individual symposium abstracts). Abstracts are submitted, reviewed, and organized by topic using session codes. Please see the submission guidelines on page 5 for additional information.



All presentation formats provide a valuable opportunity for scientific dialogue on the latest research and creative approaches. However, there will be limited opportunities for some presentation types. GSA strongly recommends that authors be willing to accept an alternative format. While effort is made to accommodate authors' preferences, it is not possible to guarantee assignment types.

Symposium Submissions

Symposia are a form of abstract organized and submitted by a chair, with the help of a discussant. They are comprised of a program overview as well as between 2 and 5 individual symposium abstracts authored by a primary author and co-author(s). At least 2 individual symposium abstracts must be submitted for the symposium to be considered.

Please do not add your individual symposium abstract to a symposium without direct consent from the chair. If you are an individual submitting an abstract independently, consider a paper or poster format.

Parts of a Symposium

Program Overview: The program overview is intended to give an overview of the symposium, provide an objective for the session, and include a brief discussion of the individual symposium abstracts that are submitted under it. The program overview must be submitted by the chair. One co-chair and one discussant can also be attached to a program overview.

Individual symposium abstract: Each symposium will have at least 2, and no more than 5 individual symposium abstracts submitted with it. An individual symposium abstract is submitted by a primary author and up to 7 co-authors.

Symposium Participants

Chair: The chair is considered the organizer of the symposium and is the main point of contact. There can only be one chair on a symposium. The chair is responsible for submitting the program overview and disseminating all information regarding the symposium to the co-chair, discussant, primary authors, and co-authors. The chair is also responsible for providing the primary authors of individual symposium abstracts with the title of the symposium, so that they may access the submission site and add their individual symposium abstracts to the already existing symposium.

Co-Chair: One co-chair can be attached to the program overview.

Session Codes

Acute Care
Adult Protection and Elder Abuse
Ageism
Animal Models of Aging
Arthritis
Assessment (Including Geriatric Assessment, Functional Assessment, Functional Status Instruments)
Attitudes about Aging
Biology of Aging
Business and Aging
Cancer
Cardiovascular Disease
Care Values and Preferences
Case Management—Organization and Auspices Functions (e.g. Assessment, Resource Allocation)

Chronic Disease Management
Civic Engagement
Cognition
Communication & Language
Creativity
Critical Gerontology/Cultural Studies
Cross Cultural/Cross National Studies
Death, Dying & Bereavement
Dementia/Delirium
Demography
Depression & Anxiety
Disability, Falls, and Mobility
Economics of Aging
Educational Evaluation
Emotions
Employment & Older Workers
End-of-Life

Endocrinology & Metabolism
Environment and Aging
Epidemiology
Ethics
Family Caregiving
Family & Intergenerational Relations
Frailty
Friendship, Social Networks, Social Support
Gender Issues
Genetics, Genomics, Gene Expression
Gerontology, Study of
Health Care
Health Promotion
Health Risk Behaviors
Housing
Humanities, Arts
Immunology and Vaccines

Discussant: One discussant can be attached to the program overview. The discussant is responsible for “pulling the session together,” drawing conclusions, integrating concepts, and facilitating discussion on-site.

Primary Author: The primary author submits and presents the individual symposium abstract.

Co-Authors: There can be up to 7 co-authors attached to each individual symposium abstract.

Paper and Poster Submissions

Paper and poster submissions are completed using the same online form. While every effort is made to accommodate authors’ preferences, it is not possible to guarantee assignment types.

Paper submissions are submitted by a primary author and up to 7 co-authors. They are then organized by session code (see below) and grouped into 90-minute paper sessions by program committee section representatives. Each paper session is comprised of between 4 and 6 papers.

Poster submissions are submitted by a primary author and up to 7 co-authors. They are then organized by session code (see below) and grouped into poster sessions by program committee section chairs. Posters are presented on a 4 foot by 8 foot poster board. Poster sessions are designed to emphasize personal dialogue and interaction with colleagues.

Completing the Online Abstract Submission Form

The abstract submission form — available mid-December — can be accessed at www.geron.org/abstracts.

Please read the instructions on each page of the submission form before completing the page. Abstract submissions are not accepted via mail, e-mail, or fax.

Submission Fees:

Symposium: \$30*
Paper/Poster: \$25
Paper/Poster (students): \$15

*Includes required 2–5 individual symposium abstracts

Submission Guidelines

Titles are limited to a total of 100 characters (including spaces).

Titles and abstract text must be in title case format:

Correct — Advance Directives: Research Results

Incorrect — Advance directives: research results

Submitters are required to provide at least one **specific and measurable** objective for their abstract. For example, “After attending this session, participants will be able to define...”

Program overview (for symposia) and paper/poster abstract text is limited to 250 words. Individual symposium abstracts are limited to 150 words.

For CEU/CME purposes, all submitters will be required to upload their full CV. Please have a .doc, .rtf, or .pdf document ready for upload.

Abstracts must be submitted with a session code (see below). They will be reviewed, placed in sessions, and scheduled according to the code chosen.

Incontinence
Infections
Informatics
Interventions
Legal Issues
Life Course and Developmental Change
Longevity and Biomarkers
Long Term Care
Mental Health
Minority & Diverse Populations
Neuroscience & Neurodegenerative Conditions
Nursing Science
Nutrition, Obesity, Eating Disorders & Caloric Restriction
Oral Health
Osteoporosis

Other Disease Conditions
Other Geriatric Conditions
Pathobiology
Personality
Physical Activity & Exercise
Physiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics (Including Metabolism, Aging Changes, Longevity)
Policy
Politics of Aging
Primary Care
Public Attitudes/Opinions
Rehabilitative Care & Physical Therapy
Reminiscence/Life Review
Research Methods and Issues: Qualitative
Research Methods and Issues: Quantitative
Retirement

Services, Interventions
Sexuality
Social Services—Policy, Financing and Delivery Systems
Social Theory
Spirituality and Religion
Successful Aging
Technology: Applications and Implications
Transportation

Criteria and Review of Abstracts

Criteria

Abstracts must be factual and report on significant research findings. The following items will be considered during the review process:

- Originality of ideas and methods
- Specificity of methods and findings
- Clarity of theoretical and/or applied implications
- Relevance to the sections' interests
- Quality of writing
- Use of proper abstract format (please follow online instructions)

Please Note

To be accepted for presentation, abstracts based on empirical research projects must report actual results, not promised results. Abstracts of presentations that seek to frame theoretical questions or advance

understanding of the application of the arts and humanities should summarize major conclusions.

Materials previously published or presented at any professional meeting may not be presented at GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting, unless there has been substantial elaboration (e.g., additional findings) from the initial report.

Abstract Review Process

Abstracts will be peer reviewed and rated on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being poor and 5 being excellent. The scores of reviewers will be averaged, and the average score will be used to determine acceptance status.

Additional Information

Speaking invitations to public officials who are not members of the Society may be extended only with the prior written approval of the program committee



Attention Authors: The Society strives to maximize opportunities to participate in the program. If an individual participates in more than one session, the Society does not guarantee that those presentations will be scheduled in non-conflicting time periods.

through the Society office. The Society must receive requests for this approval by March 15, 2012. Approval to speak does not waive the registration fee for the meeting.

In accordance with GSA policy, persons may not engage in fundraising activities in the name of GSA and its programs, including the Annual Scientific Meeting and meeting sessions, without prior written approval from the GSA Executive Director.



Notification and Presentation

In August 2012, letters will be e-mailed to the chair (symposium) or primary author (paper/poster) regarding the status of each submission. If accepted, the chair or primary author will be notified of the date and time of the presentation as well as the final presentation type (i.e., paper, poster, or symposium). Chairs and primary authors are responsible for notifying fellow participants of their abstract's acceptance. If e-mail notification is not received by the end of August, please contact the GSA Meeting Department at meetings@geron.org.

The decision of the program committee regarding acceptance or rejection of all abstracts is final.

Please note: if accepted, abstracts will be scheduled on one of the following days:

Wednesday, November 14
Thursday, November 15
Friday, November 16
Saturday, November 17
Sunday, November 18

We cannot honor requests for scheduling changes due to teaching schedules, family obligations, or other non-GSA scheduling conflicts.

GSA is my only "must-attend" conference. It provides opportunities to attend high-quality research presentations, network with colleagues from around the world, and present my own research in a scientifically rigorous yet friendly setting.



All persons attending the Annual Scientific Meeting—including presenters—are required to register and pay the registration fee.

Audio-Visual Equipment

All individuals must provide their own computers for presentations. The Society provides an LCD projector, screen, and electric pointer for all symposia and paper sessions.

Individuals who wish to use additional equipment must arrange for it at their own expense. Please note that no audio-visual equipment will be used for poster sessions.

Awards

GSA offers a number of presentation and paper awards for abstracts accepted to the Annual Scientific Meeting. During the online submission process individuals will be asked to indicate the specific awards for which they would like to be considered.

For more information on eligibility and application requirements, please visit www.geron.org/awards.

2012 GSA Program Committee

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National Council on Aging

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Program Co-Chair

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geron.org/abstracts

Charting New Frontiers in Aging

Comprised of more than 3,000 presentations and up to 100 concurrent events per day, GSA's scientific program is one of the most respected and competitive of its kind. The Call for Abstracts is your opportunity to be a part of this preeminent gerontological event of the year.



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