GSA 2025 Election Guide

This document contains biographical sketches, candidate statements, and personal statements for 2025 officer candidates in the following categories:

- Board of Directors
- Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)
- Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section
- Biological Sciences (BioSci) Section
- Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO)
- Health Sciences (HS) Section
- Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) Section

GSA Mission Statement

Foster Excellence, Innovation and Collaboration to
Advance Aging Research, Education, Practice and Policy.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM EDT, WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

Check your email for voting instructions.

Who is entitled to vote?

- All members of the Gerontological Society of America who have designated a primary section are entitled to vote for officers of that section and for Board of Directors positions.

- All members who are Academy Representatives with the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education are entitled to vote for officers of AGHE as well as for officers of their primary section and for the Board of Directors positions.

- All undergraduate, graduate student / post-doc, and early career members are entitled to vote for officers of ESPO as well as for officers of their primary section and for the Board of Directors positions.

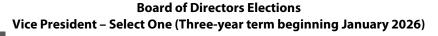- Members who are not affiliated with a section are entitled to vote for the Board of Directors positions.

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Board of Directors Elections
Vice President – Select One (Three-year term beginning January 2026)

Matt Kaeberlein, PhD, FGSA

Dr. Matt Kaeberlein is the Chief Executive Officer at Optispan, Inc., an Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington, and Co-Founder of the Dog Aging Project. He is deeply committed to advancing human and animal health by targeting the biological processes underlying aging and age-related disease. A distinguished leader in his field, Dr. Kaeberlein is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Aging Association, and the Gerontological Society of America. He has published over 250 scientific papers on longevity. In addition to receiving the 2020 Robert W. Kleemeier Award from GSA, Dr. Kaeberlein has been honored with numerous awards from leading organizations, including the Ellison Medical Foundation, Alzheimer's Association, American Federation for Aging Research, Glenn Foundation, Murdock Trust, and NIA. Dr. Kaeberlein is the founding Director of the University of Washington Healthy Aging and Longevity Research Institute and the Biological Mechanisms of Healthy Aging Training Program. He served as Director of the UW Nathan Shock Center, President and Chair of the American Aging Association, Chair of the GSA Biological Sciences Section, and on the Board of Directors for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and the Alliance for Longevity Initiatives (A4Li).

Candidate Statement: I am honored to stand for election as Vice President of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Throughout my career as a researcher, mentor, and advocate, my mission has been to advance the science of aging and translate discoveries into meaningful health benefits. I have worked to bridge the gap between fundamental discoveries and real-world applications, fostering collaborations between researchers, clinicians, entrepreneurs, and policymakers. I have also served as a tireless advocate for rigor and transparency in the field.

This is a time of both significant uncertainty and unprecedented opportunity for our community. As Vice President of GSA, I will prioritize three key initiatives: (1) Expanding interdisciplinary collaboration within GSA to accelerate aging research and its clinical impact; (2) Strengthening public and policy engagement to ensure aging science informs healthcare and societal frameworks; and (3) Enhancing mentorship and career development for the next generation of gerontologists.

Personal Statement: For nearly three decades, my career has been dedicated to advancing our understanding of the biological mechanisms of aging and translating this knowledge to improve healthspan and quality of life. My work has spanned genetics, molecular biology, comparative longevity, and clinical validation in both companion animals and people, always with the goal of bridging the gap between laboratory discoveries and real-world applications. Throughout my career, I have attempted to emphasize collaboration across disciplines and serve as a voice for scientific rigor and advocacy for the field. I have worked to amplify others who bring innovative perspectives to aging research and inspire public engagement with the science of longevity.

GSA has had an enormous impact on my development as a scientist, from the time I was a graduate student until today. I am grateful for the knowledge and productive collaborations that evolved from my participation in GSA and especially for the many wonderful friendships I have gained. I hope to give back so that the next generation of gerontologists benefits as I have from this organization. I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve and help shape the future of gerontology.

Blanka Rogina, PhD, MS, FGSA

Blanka Rogina is a Professor of Genetics and Genome Sciences at the UConn Health School of Medicine and an affiliated investigator of the UConn Center on Aging. She studies genetic mechanisms of aging and how interventions extend healthy life. She has been funded by the National Institute on Aging, the American Federation for Aging Research, and the Glenn Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging. She has served on numerous NIH study sections and international review panels. Dr. Rogina has served as Director of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Graduate Program. She was the founding Editor of Frontiers in Genetics of Aging and currently serves as the Specialty Chief Editor. Dr. Rogina has organized four Northeastern Glenn Symposiums. Dr. Rogina is a Fellow of the GSA and has served on many GSA committees, including the Award Review Panel; the BioSci Annual Scientific Meeting Working Group; Program, Publications, and Products Committee; Membership Committee; Strategic Planning Committee; Lead, The Journals of Gerontology Series A, Editor-in-Chief Search workgroup; and the Fellows Review Panel. She was MPI on two NIA R13s that supported the BioSci Program at the 2021 and 2023 GSA Annual meetings and is the current BioSci Past Chair.

Candidate Statement: *I am honored to be nominated for Vice President of the Gerontological Society of America. Because I see interdisciplinary research as central to understanding aging and developing approaches to promote health during aging, my goal as Vice President would be to focus on "building connections" between people and ideas across GSA committees, and persons across professional boundaries. Collaboration between GSA sections including basic and social scientists, psychologists, educators, clinicians, nurses, and policymakers is essential for further promoting organismal health. Ultimately, these efforts will enable more awareness and connection within the aging research community, which will accelerate the rational design of therapeutic interventions to promote health during aging. I possess several leadership strengths in mentorship, communication, and organization that will support the GSA vision. My leadership role in mentoring graduate students makes me well-suited to help develop the next generation of scientists interested in aging research. My experience as a chief editor will enable me to effectively disseminate scientific knowledge in GSA journals. My ability to organize scientific gatherings allowing fluid exchange of knowledge and facilitating collaborations will be key to my Vice President role. It is my goal to leverage these strengths to enhance the GSA in these areas.*

Personal Statement: I am a proud member of the GSA, which has been my professional home during my career. I have been performing aging studies using Drosophila as a model for the last 32 years. During this time great progress has been made in understanding basic biology of aging. I was privileged to be involved in some of the groundbreaking studies such as identification and characterization of several genes critical for Drosophila health and longevity. I have also examined effects of caloric restriction as an intervention to improve organismal health. The GSA organization and annual scientific meetings provided space for my personal growth as a scientist, mentor, and leader in the aging field. I presented my first poster at the GSA Annual meeting in 1994 and since then, I have had the privilege to get to know leaders in the aging field who have provided guidance throughout my career. I would be honored to follow in the steps of the GSA leaders and as Vice President to provide leadership in education, mentorship, and training for the next generation of scientists, enhance communications and promote collaborations between the GSA sections, and help move the aging research field forward by promoting healthy lifespan.

George L. Sutphin, PhD, FGSA

Dr. George Sutphin is an Assistant Professor of Molecular & Cellular Biology and the BIO5 Institute at the University of Arizona. He currently serves as Chair & CEO of the American Aging Association. He received his BS and MS in Aeronautics & Astronautics from the University of Washington in 2004 and 2006, respectively. He received his PhD in Molecular & Cellular Biology at the University of Washington in 2012, with a dissertation focused on comparative genetics of aging. He conducted his postdoctoral training in aging genetics at The Jackson Laboratory from 2012 to 2017. Dr. Sutphin's studies molecular mechanisms of aging and age-associated disease using C. elegans, cell culture, and mice as model systems, with a focus on the intersection between metabolism and cellular stress response. A secondary focus is on high-content methods development in C. elegans. His recent work has identified interventions targeting the tryptophan-kynurenine metabolic pathway that extend healthy lifespan and enhance stress resistance and begun to understand the importance of metals in cellular stress response.

Candidate Statement: *As a GSA Board member, I will prioritize strengthening connections between aging-focused organizations and enhancing support for trainees across aging science. I currently serve as Chair & CEO of the American Aging Association (AGE). I will leverage this position to continue to strengthen the GSA-AGE partnership while building relationships with other key organizations including British Society for Research on Ageing, the Alliance for Longevity Initiatives, and the recently formed Canadian Translational Geroscience Network.*

My second focus will be to bolster GSA's exceptional trainee support. My leadership journey in aging research began as a BioSci ESPO representative in GSA. Leadership opportunities offered to trainees in both GSA and AGE are vital for developing future leaders in our field—I see valuable opportunities to connect these vibrant trainee communities.

As a basic scientist, I value GSA's crucial role in bridging connections with clinicians and professionals whose work more directly impacts patient outcomes. This perspective will guide my efforts as I pursue both priorities on the GSA Board.

Personal Statement: *Research mentorship has been central to my career, having guided over 50 undergraduates, 12 master's students, and 7 PhD students, with emphasis on supporting those transitioning between disciplines, similar to my own path from engineering to biology. Through leadership in both AGE and GSA, I have worked to created opportunities and initiatives to support trainees at all career levels. My background in biological aging mechanisms and organizational leadership uniquely positions me to expand GSA's reach while ensuring robust support for emerging gerontology researchers.*

Matthew J. Yousefzadeh, PhD

Matt Yousefzadeh is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center and is a member of the Burch-Lodge Center for Human Longevity and Columbia Center for Translational Immunology. His laboratory investigates the role of senescent cells in health and disease, particularly in immune aging. He received his Ph.D. from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Scripps Florida and the University of Minnesota where he studied the mechanisms by which endogenous DNA damage drives aging. Dr. Yousefzadeh has been a member of the GSA since 2020 and was previously a member of ESPO, served as the junior section leader for the Biological Sciences section, and chaired multiple sessions at GSA meetings (2022-2024). Currently he helps to coordinate the Publishing Scholars Program to work with trainees to review manuscripts. Outside of GSA, Dr. Yousefzadeh has served in multiple roles in the American Aging Association, including Senior Trainee Advocate and director of the peer review training program. He is completing the final year as the early career representative on the board of directors for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

Candidate Statement: *Having only started my own independent laboratory two years ago, I believe that can I represent the interests of early career researchers that are in the field of aging. I have a strong track record of working with trainees within the American Aging Association, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, and GSA. This provides me with the ability to understand their concerns and interests in order to better advocate for them and ensure that GSA understands what they need to grow their nascent careers. My desire to serve as a board member is rooted in my wish to give back to the GSA. The interactions and experiences that I have had with the GSA and its members during my postdoctoral training and now as a junior faculty member have been invaluable both personally and professionally. GSA members have provided me with both form and informal mentorship that has helped to get my independent career off the ground in ways that I might never have been able to. Overall I see GSA as a multidisciplinary community that provides exposure and opportunities for members that also serves as deep network of experts on aging for the public.*

Personal Statement: *I have a longstanding commitment to working with trainees and colleagues. Within my own institution. I serve as a member of the diversity committee within the Department of Medicine and lead the Columbia Center for Translational Immunology DEIB working group. To give back to the community, I have recently been working with Gustavo Duque and Judy Lieu, to create the Publishing Scholars Program which provides the opportunity and guidance for trainees to become independent reviewers for The Journals of Gerontology: Series A. I have been committed to DEIB for the past 8 years. This includes participating as a faculty mentor for numerous outreach programs focused on providing education and training on aging biology to underrepresented trainees to further their careers. I also had the opportunity to represent the GSA at the 2023 SACNAS meeting. Recently, I have started to mentor K99 MOSAIC recipients and help them as they navigate the job search and starting their own independent positions. Because of these experiences, I strive to run and diverse and inclusive laboratory where everyone feels welcome and encouraged to be themselves. Thank you for your consideration.*

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Representatives and Primary Section Members
Vice Chair-Elect– Select One (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2026)

Yvonne M Lozano, PhD, LMFT

Yvonne Lozano's extensive experience and dedication to the field of Gerontology make her an exemplary leader in both Gerontology and healthcare education. As a Professor and the Assistant Dean of Healthcare Sciences at the University of Arizona Global Campus, she combines over 20 years of teaching experience with an impressive 18 years in mental health and clinical gerontology. Her commitment to the subject is evident in her academic achievements, including a PhD in applied gerontology from the University of North Texas, and her active participation in numerous university committees, where she champions the needs of students and faculty. Yvonne's research and service interests laudably focus on critical issues such as domestic violence among older women and caregiver stress, particularly within the Hispanic community. These pressing topics highlight her passion for improving vulnerable populations' lives and underscore her work's importance. Her expertise enriches academic environments and fosters a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding aging and caregiving today. Supporting her initiatives will undoubtedly lead to meaningful change and advancement in the field, making her an invaluable asset to any academic or professional setting.

Candidate Statement: *I am honored to announce my candidacy for Vice Chair of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). With over 25 years of experience in Gerontology, I bring a unique blend of academic knowledge and practical expertise that enables me to serve our community effectively. My background includes teaching, local and state presentations, and hands-on application in academic institutions, community organizations, and healthcare systems. This dual perspective allows me to bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring our educational programs address real-world challenges older adults face.*

I am committed to advancing Gerontology and recognize AGHE's vital role in shaping the future of aging studies. My goals include promoting innovative pedagogical strategies, fostering collaborative research initiatives, and enhancing partnerships with community organizations to prepare our members for the evolving needs of older adults. Additionally, I advocate for increased funding and resources to support Gerontology education. I envision AGHE evolving to meet the growing demand for well-trained Gerontology professionals. We must embrace technological advancements and innovative teaching methods, positioning AGHE as a leading voice for policies that support aging populations.

I appreciate your consideration and support as I seek to empower our members and positively impact the aging community.

Personal Statement: *As a passionate advocate in Gerontology, I am deeply committed to excellence, innovation, and collaboration in advancing research, education, and policy regarding aging. My extensive experience as a Professor and Assistant Dean of Healthcare Sciences across various institutions has profoundly shaped my approach to academia and community service, particularly in the critical realms of mental health and clinical gerontology. With over 20 years of teaching experience and a PhD in Applied Gerontology, I focus on pressing issues that significantly impact older adults, such as domestic violence among older women and the unique challenges faced by caregivers. I take pride in actively mentoring junior researchers and facilitating workshops, enhancing professional development, and fostering collaboration. Engagement with the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) would be instrumental in aligning my vision for impactful research initiatives and robust policy advocacy to enhance gerontology education and practice.*

I am eager to advance the field further, champion emerging scholars, and cultivate an inclusive culture that inspires innovation and collective effort. Together, we can boldly confront the challenges of aging and work towards a more equitable future for everyone navigating the complexities of later life.
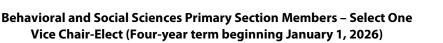
Karen Kopera-Frye, PhD, MPA, FGSA, FAGHE

Karen Kopera-Frye, Ph.D., M.P.A., FGSA, FAGHE, is a Professor at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in the Department of Public Health Sciences/Gerontology. She received her Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. in Lifespan Developmental/Clinical Psychology at Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit, Michigan, where she was born. Dr. Kopera-Frye returned as a on-traditional student to obtain her M.P.A. at NMSU in 2020 with a 4.0! She has been involved in grantsmanship for over 30 years, focusing on health inequities among underserved groups, particularly Indigenous and Latinx communities. Dr. Kopera-Frye was one of the first graduate students to receive her graduate Specialist in Aging at WSU's Institute of Gerontology. Her passion is mentoring, and she was honored to receive AGHE's Friedsam Mentoring Award in 2020. Dr. Kopera-Frye serves as a reviewer for multiple journals such as *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, *Geriatrics and Gerontological Education*, and numerous GSA and AGHE conference abstracts. Dr. Kopera-Frye has served on various GSA and AGHE committees such as the Advancement Committee for AGHE, Fellow Committee for BSS, Accreditation for Geriatric Education, Program of Merit, Publications Committee, and Reno Conference Planning Committee. In her free time, she rescues neglected and abandoned horses, donkeys, and dogs.

Candidate Statement: *My passion has always been mentoring, recently completing an Advanced Mentoring Award certification. The mentoring spark ignited when I attended my first AGHE/GSA conference 27 years ago. Since then, I have found AGHE to be like a caring family—supportive of career paths and always willing to mentor; thus, my goal has been to pay it forward. GSA's mission is "Foster Excellence, Innovation and Collaboration to Advance Aging Research, Education, Practice and Policy"; something all of us do. My goals for this position are: 1) mentoring for all levels of career; 2) promoting the success of all our GSA/AGHE members; 3) increasing new opportunities to showcase my colleagues' research; and 4) working with GSA to advance increased knowledge and service. My mentoring will serve all levels in academia; creating a leadership academy; for example, similar to what I experienced when chosen for a Leadership in Women in Psychology through the American Psychological Association, supporting research conference minute talks to showcase research, and highlighting collaborative AGHE projects displaying service to our communities. I believe I have the qualifications to advance GSA and AGHE's missions and am honored to have been nominated to serve in this important position.*

Personal Statement: *My career in Psychology started with my background in Lifespan Developmental Psychology. My research projects have followed my training—truly a lifespan approach. I began working with infants and children in inner city Detroit as a student. I then went on to research predictors of teen pregnancy and troubled youth in Detroit public school students. My focus then matured into predictors of school college success and belonging, ala Tinto, in first-generation college attending students (since I am one). Finally, I rediscovered my passion for older adult research, a passion that has always been there, but I wanted to be true to my Lifespan training! Since working at New Mexico State University from 2016, I have been working to grow our Gerontology minor which resides in the Public Health Sciences Department. My research focuses on community-based participatory research involving health promotion and health literacy among diverse communities, particularly Indigenous and Latinx communities. I have been honored to serve and work with my colleagues on multiple committees, task forces, and executive board membership for GSA/AGHE and the American Psychological Association (APA). I enjoy advancing the mission and goals of such important professional organizations. I am a team player and love collaborating with my esteemed colleagues on various endeavors.*

Behavioral and Social Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2026)

Lisa C. Barry, PhD, MPH, FGSA

Dr. Barry is a chronic disease epidemiologist and Associate Professor (Professor as of August 2025) at the University of Connecticut (UCONN) Center on Aging/UCONN Pepper Center. Her research focuses on the relationship between mental health and functional disability among vulnerable populations of older adults, such as those who have been incarcerated.

Dr. Barry has been a GSA member since 1999 and a GSA Fellow since 2013. Her previous leadership positions at GSA include Emerging Scholars and Professionals Organization (ESPO) Chair (2005-2007), Co-Chair of GSA's Epidemiology of Aging Interest group (2010-2012), and Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences editorial board member (2010-2017). Dr. Barry also co-developed the BSS Mini-Mentoring Program. This program, launched in 2023, brings together BSS Fellows and early-career members at the annual meeting to discuss career-related topics. Given the success of this program, it will be implemented as a GSA society-wide initiative at the 2025 annual meeting.

Dr. Barry earned her doctoral and master's degrees in Epidemiology and Public Health from Yale University where she also completed her postdoctoral studies. Dr. Barry is passionate about mentoring early career investigators and she also enjoys visiting the CT shore with her family, reading, and trying to improve her pickleball game.

Candidate Statement: *Over my 26 years as a GSA member, I've had the privilege of serving in several leadership roles. These experiences instilled in me a deep appreciation for the work and commitment needed to prioritize and launch initiatives, organize successful annual meetings, and attain and sustain invested membership. I believe I am now well-positioned to dedicate the time and energy needed to successfully fulfill the responsibilities required of BSS Vice-Chair. As a leader, I bring enthusiasm, experience, strategic vision, and a deep respect for the diverse voices that comprise BSS's and GSA's vibrant membership.*

If elected as BSS Vice-Chair, I will prioritize fostering strong relationships among BSS members by continuing to champion initiatives such as the Mini-Mentoring Program and by helping to develop more opportunities for networking and engaging in GSA activities. I will ensure regular updates and hold office hours to stay connected with members, listen to your ideas and concerns, and advocate for BSS. I will also collaborate with other GSA section leaders to explore innovative ways to use AI and technology to strengthen connections within the GSA community, connect with broader external audiences, and further establish GSA as a world leader in working to achieve equitable aging.

Personal Statement: *I am truly honored and excited to be nominated to serve as BSS Vice-Chair. The BSS Section of GSA has been my professional home throughout my career, and I am extremely thankful to be part of this community. GSA/BSS has been instrumental in helping me navigate my journey from student to junior faculty member, to professor and mentor. By offering opportunities to develop research collaborations, raising my awareness of innovative research developments in aging, and fostering life-long friendships, GSA/BSS is a continuous source of support. It has also been my pleasure to actively participate in several GSA volunteer activities, with a strong focus on activities that cultivate the careers of new generations of GSA members. I am also deeply involved in mentoring at the University of Connecticut. I co-direct UConn's "Pre-K" program, which equips junior faculty with competencies and protected time to effectively apply for NIH Research Career Development (K) Awards. I also co-lead the UConn Pepper Center's Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core, which primarily supports early-stage investigators. I have a heartfelt desire to continue working together to support the next generation of gerontologists and to support GSA's mission of advancing aging science across academic and applied domains.*

Amanda N. Leggett, PhD, FGSA

Amanda N. Leggett, PhD, FGSA, is an Assistant Professor (Associate beginning August 2025) in the Institute of Gerontology and Department of Psychology at Wayne State University and Adjunct Professor in the Psychiatry Department at the University of Michigan. She is also faculty of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. She received her M.S. and PhD in Human Development and Family Studies from the Pennsylvania State University and is a proud Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. She currently co-leads Michigan's state-wide Dementia Coalition.

Dr. Leggett's research program focuses on care management styles of dementia family caregivers, broader networks of care, and associations with stress, health, and well-being of individuals living with dementia and their care partners.

Dr. Leggett first became a member and attended the GSA annual meeting as an undergraduate in 2007 and has been involved ever since. She has served GSA in a variety of roles from ESPO's newsletter taskforce, BSS's volunteer and iSession workgroups, to the search committee for Innovation in Aging's editor. She is an Associate Editor of GSA's Innovation in Aging and is on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry and Research in Aging. She is a long-time Hospice volunteer.

Candidate Statement: *I'm honored to be nominated for BSS Vice-Chair and to have the potential opportunity to give back to my professional home through such a position. I am excited to continue building on the strong, multidisciplinary and collaborative foundation of our section's leadership in advancing behavioral and social gerontological research and would be eager to lead new initiatives in this vein. In the uncertain climate in which we find ourselves, I believe it is more important than ever before that we work to disseminate both the importance of behavioral and social gerontological research and key findings emerging from our section to the general public, and that we bolster and support our emerging BSS scholars for the continued success of our field. I would seek to listen to our student and early career members on how BSS can best support them and build upon these ideas (e.g., advocate for increased funding for section travel awards, mentorship programs). Additionally, as our section is a preeminent leader in behavioral and social research with relevance to older adults' lives, I would be interested in exploring ways to highlight members research beyond BSS and to the broader public (e.g., social media, podcast, advocacy to policymakers).*

Personal Statement: *Alongside my passion for improving the well-being of older adults and their caregivers, mentoring junior scholars and ensuring all individuals can engage in advancing the field of gerontology is a key career focus. As faculty at Wayne State University, an R1, minority serving, urban institution in Detroit, MI, I teach and mentor students from diverse backgrounds and participate in community outreach and engaged work through our Institute of Gerontology. For several years I have co-led a small group through the Michigan Center for Contextual Factors of Alzheimer's Disease summer data immersion program (an AD-RCMAR seeking to address disparities in Alzheimer's disease through research and mentorship). I regularly mentor through GSA's mini-mentorship program, APA Division 20's mentorship program, and work with students who are underrepresented in health research through my university's undergraduate research opportunity and McNair Scholars programs. I greatly value that BSS fosters global perspectives and connections which enrich our field and empirical thinking. If elected, I would aim to amplify the voices of all members in our section (e.g., across career-stage, locality, research focus)- making sure diverse perspectives are reflected in our annual meeting programming, year-long initiatives, and in disseminating the important work of BSS members to policymakers.*

Biological Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair - Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)

Peter M. Abadir, MD
Dr. Peter M. Abadir is Associate Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and holds a joint appointment in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is the Principal Investigator and Director of the Translational Aging Research T32 Training Program and co-leads the Johns Hopkins Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory for Aging Research. His clinical and research focus centers on frailty, resilience, and cognitive decline in older adults. Dr. Abadir is internationally recognized for identifying the mitochondrial angiotensin system, and for his translational research linking molecular mechanisms to age-related phenotypes. His work spans metabolomics, cell-free DNA, and AI-driven phenotyping to better understand and target biological aging. He has received multiple awards including the Nathan Shock Scholar in Aging and the Brancati Excellence in Mentorship Award.

He serves as Deputy Editor of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society and Section Editor for Journals of Gerontology, Series A. At Johns Hopkins, he chairs the MD Admissions Committee and directs the Gerotech Incubator Program. A long-standing GSA member, Dr. Abadir has chaired symposia, served as a study section reviewer, and led interdisciplinary aging initiatives that unite biology, engineering, and geriatrics to advance science and care for older adults.

Candidate Statement: *As Vice Chair-Elect of the Biological Sciences Section, I will work to amplify the impact of gerontological science by strengthening translational pathways, interdisciplinary collaboration, and mentorship. My vision is to support a vibrant and inclusive scientific community where foundational discoveries in aging biology inform clinical innovations and public health strategies.*

I will promote three priorities: (1) accelerating the translation of biological insights into practice through collaboration with other GSA sections and NIH-supported networks; (2) supporting early-career investigators through mentorship opportunities and visibility for their work; and (3) enhancing representation of emerging fields—such as artificial intelligence, systems biology, and multimodal biomarker development, within the section's symposia, leadership, and publications.

I bring experience co-leading national initiatives, including the NIA-funded Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory and the Johns Hopkins Translational Aging T32 Program. I have organized national meetings, led NIH review sections, and served as Deputy Editor of JAGS and Section Editor of Journals of Gerontology: Series A. I am committed to strengthening GSA as the scientific and professional home for gerontologists working at the intersection of biology, engineering, and aging care. I look forward to listening, collaborating, and advancing the priorities of our membership.

Personal Statement: *My journey in aging research began at the bench, studying age-related inflammation in the renin-angiotensin system. Over the years, I have expanded this work to span molecular biology, engineering, and clinical translation, motivated by the goal of improving function and independence for older adults.*

As a physician-scientist, I care for frail older adults and lead programs that integrate biology and technology to better detect and treat aging-related decline. I co-direct the Johns Hopkins AITC, direct the Translational Aging Research T32 Program, and have mentored over 40 trainees across medicine, engineering, and public health.

GSA has shaped my development as a gerontologist, offering a home for sharing ideas and building lifelong collaborations. I've contributed as a symposium chair, conference organizer, NIA subcommittee leader, and journal editor. I have experienced firsthand the Society's power to connect scientists across disciplines, generations, and institutions.I am honored by this nomination and view this role as an opportunity to give back,to support the next generation, amplify emerging science, and continue GSA's leadership in advancing aging research. I believe strongly in GSA's mission and hope to serve the Society and its members with energy, openness, and dedication.

Biological Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair- Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)

Scott Leiser, PhD, FGSA
Scott Leiser, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Molecular & Integrative Physiology, Internal Medicine, and Gerontology at the University of Michigan. He received his undergraduate degree from UC Davis and PhD from University of Michigan. His training and expertise include >20 years studying geroscience and focuses on genetic, biochemical, and molecular approaches. As a PhD student, he studied how cells from long-lived animals differ in metabolism and stress resistance and linked them to the Phase II xenobiotic detoxification factor, Nrf2. As a postdoc, he discovered that the hypoxic response extends lifespan through a cell nonautonomous pathway ending with the longevity gene FMO-2. His lab utilizes a combinatorial approach in both nematode and mammalian systems, focusing on conserved regulators of longevity. The lab is particularly interested in how organisms perceive and respond to stress, and the role of conserved families of stress-responsive genes.

Dr. Leiser has contributed to GSA through participation on committees, developing symposia, and participating in abstract reviewing. Additionally, he serves as Vice Chair of the American Aging Association, Associate Director of the Physiology graduate program and Aging Training Program at UM, and is a member of the AFAR National Scientific Advisory Council and the Interventions Testing Program.

Candidate Statement: *I think the role of the Vice-Chair elect for the Biological Sciences section of GSA should be to enhance the mission of the Association through promoting high quality research, education, training, and mentoring toward the ultimate goal of promoting healthy aging. In particular, I have unique experience from my time in the geroscience field and serving on multiple GSA committees that I can leverage to utilize the scale of GSA and the growth of geroscience to best develop a program that combines basic and translational research into a cohesive context. My experience in basic research in multiple organisms will allow me to recruit exciting speakers from many areas, with a focus on both developing and translating approaches. I believe that serving in this role will help accomplish the goal of bringing together various stakeholder to develop pipelines to publicize key advances and enhance the impact of the work of each area. I also support continued promotion and refinement of GSA mentoring both within and between sections, as well as efforts to grow the number of high-quality researchers driving the field through expanding promotion and dissemination of the research findings of our Association members.*

Personal Statement: *The most rewarding aspect of my position and my career is the opportunity to impact current and future generations of scientists. To that end, my primary contributions to cultivating growth of junior colleagues include: 1) mentoring undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral trainees, 2) recruiting/teaching all levels of science, 3) helping with junior faculty outreach through AGE and GSA, and 4) service to societies like GSA. In mentoring, my lab has trained more than 50 undergraduates, a dozen PhD students, and nearly as many fellows, with many receiving fellowships and scientific awards. My door is always open to members of my lab and other trainees, and I strive to mentor each individual based on their needs. In the department, I have served 8 years on the Physiology graduate program committee, currently as Associate Director, where we actively recruit across the country and support the students throughout their time in graduate school. These experiences, along with interactions with junior scientists at meetings including the annual GSA meeting, have shown me the value of offering support through discussions, grant writing, letter writing, and helping make connections. As Vice-Chair elect, I will leverage this experience to benefit the GSA membership.*

Student members, Transitional members, and Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)

Guoping Jin, MSW

Guoping Jin is a third-year doctoral student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. She is an interdisciplinary social science researcher with training in gerontology and social work. Her research focuses on promoting resilience and reducing health disparities among older adults across the life course.

Guoping has been an active GSA member, serving as a peer reviewer for conference abstracts (2024-2025) and a member of the Interdisciplinary Annual Scientific Meeting Working Group (2025). She currently serves as the 2025 Co-Lead of the ESPO-Communication Taskforce (2025), collaborating with ESPO leadership to enhance engagement across emerging scholars and the broader GSA membership. Beyond GSA, Guoping is Lead Volunteer for the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) (2023-present) and Co-Event Coordinator for the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW) (2025). At the University of Pittsburgh, she served as International Student Representative on the Doctoral Student Committee (2022-2024), advocating for students from multicultural backgrounds. Her awards include the Joseph W. and Helen F. Eaton Emerging Scholars Award Fund, the AGESW Gerontological Social Work Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, and the Student Scholar Fund for advancing civil rights and racial justice.

Candidate Statement: *I am honored to be nominated for the position of ESPO Vice Chair-Elect. GSA has become central to my professional identity since my first membership and engagement with it, shaping my development as a scholar in the field of aging. I deeply value GSA's interdisciplinary structure, which offers both the depth and breadth of collaboration and knowledge needed to address the evolving challenges of an aging society.*

Through leadership roles in GSA and other national organizations, I have developed critical skills in communication, collaboration, and engagement across diverse communities. As a first-generation college student and woman of color, I am especially committed to cultivating inclusive environments for early-career scholars from underrepresented and multicultural backgrounds. If elected, I aim to create safe spaces for authentic dialogue, where scholars can engage across identities to dismantle conscious and subconscious biases and advocate for equitable policies. I also propose expanding leadership opportunities for early-career scholars from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, ensuring the continuation and expansion of inclusive and innovative areas of gerontological research and practice. I am eager to use my leadership and volunteer experiences to amplify the voices of emerging scholars and increase representation within ESPO and across the broader GSA community.

Personal Statement: *My consistent commitment to inclusion and diversity is reflected in both my research and practice. I worked extensively with low-income older immigrants, including Holocaust survivors and undocumented individuals, assisting them with benefits applications and mental health counseling. Inspired by their ability to age healthfully amid life adversities, my research adopts a strength-based perspective to examine how resilience is shaped and internalized across the life course, and how it helps mitigate health disparities in later life among diverse aging populations.*

As an international student, I have also advocated for institutional support at the University of Pittsburgh by helping organize leadership dialogues in response to political uncertainty and discrimination. Nationally, I co-founded the International & Multicultural Mentoring subcommittee of SSWR to support doctoral students from diverse backgrounds.

In conclusion, I am committed to promoting the need for diverse representation and fostering a culture of belonging for scholars from all backgrounds. I am excited to contribute to GSA's mission by helping create a supportive, inclusive, and equitable environment where all members feel respected, valued, and empowered to lead—regardless of their identity, experience, or background.

Minzhi Ye, PhD

Dr. Minzhi Ye is an interdisciplinary gerontologist whose leadership across research, mentorship, and society service exemplifies the values of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). She currently serves as an Editorial Board Member (2024–2029) for Innovation in Aging and was appointed to the 2024 Chief Editor Search Committee, shaping editorial leadership for the journal's future.

As co-convener of GSA's Aging Among Asians (2019–present) and Rainbow Research Interest Group (2023–2025), Dr. Ye has fostered collaborative networks, launched student awards that have recognized many emerging scholars, and designed inclusive conference programming. She also served as GSA's International Representative (2016–2018), advancing global engagement through cross-border scholarly exchange.

Beyond GSA, Dr. Ye has led grant-funded projects focused on digital inclusion, caregiving innovation, and health equity. She has served as Principal Investigator or Research Design Lead across U.S. and Asian contexts, coordinating teams of interdisciplinary scholars and mentoring junior researchers—several of whom have received national student awards. Her leadership is rooted in mentorship, inclusion, and translational impact—hallmarks that align deeply with ESPO's mission. Dr. Ye brings a global perspective, a track record of strategic collaboration, and a strong commitment to nurturing the next generation of aging scholars

Candidate Statement: *As a sociologist who began in mechanical engineering and transitioned through cross-cultural research in Asia to equity-focused projects in the U.S., I've always sought to build bridges—between disciplines, communities, and generations. This lens makes me uniquely positioned to serve as Vice Chair-Elect of ESPO.*

I am running for this position because I believe early-career scholars deserve more than support—they deserve platforms for leadership. Within GSA, I've co-convened the Aging Among Asians and Rainbow RIGs, launched student awards, and helped shape journal strategy through the Innovation in Aging editorial board and Chief Editor Search Committee. These experiences have taught me how transformative inclusive leadership can be.

My goals include creating more scholar-led panels, piloting a mentorship incubator for first-time presenters, and building global scholar exchange networks that engage members across geography and discipline. I want to ensure that ESPO not only supports, but amplifies emerging voices.

As aging challenges become increasingly global and interdisciplinary, I envision GSA evolving into a nexus for innovation—where gerontology meets AI, and where equity and evidence go hand in hand. I'm ready to help lead that vision, grounded in GSA's mission and committed to empowering every early-career voice.

Personal Statement: *Mentorship is at the heart of my academic and professional journey. Whether supporting a first-gen student's first conference presentation, guiding a junior colleague through a successful national award application, or providing support letters for international young scholars, I see mentorship as a shared path to growth.*

At GSA, I've co-convened the Aging Among Asians and Rainbow RIGs, launching student recognition initiatives, building diverse panels, and creating cross-disciplinary spaces that connect early-career scholars with senior mentors. My grant-funded projects—on caregiving, digital equity, and community-engaged research—have served as incubators for student researchers, many of whom have presented at GSA or co-authored publications.

Looking forward, I aim to develop new leadership pipelines and mentorship models that are culturally responsive and interdisciplinary. I'm particularly committed to uplifting scholars whose experiences may be shaped by their identities, cultures, resources, or caregiving roles—voices essential to the future of gerontology.
Grounded in GSA's mission of advancing innovation, diversity, and collaboration, my contributions are focused on ensuring all members have meaningful opportunities to thrive. I bring not only experience, but lived empathy and an enduring belief in shared success as the engine for collective advancement in our field.

Mary K. Milidonis, PhD, PT

Mary K. Milidonis, PhD, PT is an Associate Professor in the Doctor of PT Department at Cleveland State University and is the Director of Gerontology Graduate Certificates. She received her PhD in health services research from Case Western Reserve University, a MMSc degree from Emory University and BS from Cleveland State University. Her career started as a clinical physical therapist in acute care and outpatient services and is now engaged in older adult health promotion clinics. Her recent research focuses on promoting mobility, activity and health literacy for pain, falls and bone health. She has co-authored a chapter, monograph and research article on health literacy. Her current work evaluates pain app technology with health literacy in diverse older adults and care providers. This year, she co-chaired a workgroup that led to the Age Friendly University Global Network designation. Her professional leadership roles have included work with both GSA and APTA. As a member of GSA, she serves on the Mid-career Development Committee with the Health Sciences Section and abstract reviewer for several years. She has held elected leadership positions in APTA including APTA Geriatrics Bone Health SIG as well as the Residency Fellowship SIG. She volunteers with Senior Olympics.

Candidate Statement: When I was a new researcher, I was attracted to GSA, because of the interdisciplinary mentoring that inspires achievement. My passion is working with interprofessional groups in my current role as Director of Gerontology Certificates and previous role as Director of the Master of Health Sciences. With older adults and gerontology professionals facing increased financial challenges, innovation in research, mentoring and management is needed. The HS should continue to advocate for resources to advance research and educational programs related to aging. My goals for HS would be: 1) continue creating resource opportunities for GSA professionals to promote their research; 2) facilitate professional development for challenges in health delivery research and workforce development; and 3) Promote conversations about challenges within GSA and outside of GSA to promote success for all GSA members. Within GSA, Health Sciences needs to continue facilitating professional development opportunities at all career stages. Central to improving GSA future is promoting and translating age friendly practices in education, research, health management and health promotion.

Personal Statement: My career as a health professional, researcher and educator has focused on working with diverse professionals, students and communities. My research has created collaborative alliances with expert clinicians and developing faculty to understand best practices and resulting in publications and presentations. I have served over the past several years at my institution on a workgroup to raise awareness about inclusive and respectful practices that welcome all students. My roles as an educator and in professional associations (GSA and APTA) have led to the development of residency scholarships programs (APTA), student research engagement in GSA and APTA, increasing student membership in APTA, mentoring programs in APTA, professional conference content , societal communication publications, evidence based professional resources APTA and community engagement activities (professional development webinars, websites and journal clubs). I have a passion for working with and mentoring students and clinicians. As the Director of Gerontology Certificates, I understand the importance and benefits of fostering innovation and working collaboratively across disciplines.

Matthew J. Peterson, PhD, FGSA

Dr. Peterson is an Associate Professor of Clinical Research at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He is an exercise scientist with expertise in the detection and intervention of functional decline. Dr. Peterson currently leads the Hub to Engage in Aging Research & Training (HEART), which serves as a training, support, and mentoring core for UNCW students and faculty engaged in aging research. He previously served as the Director of Research in the Department of Geriatrics at Wright State University. His first academic appointment was as Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatrics at Duke/Durham VA Medical Centers. Dr. Peterson's research in exercise and frailty has been foundational in developing evidence-based guidelines for providers and patients to treat and prevent frailty and its progression.

Dr. Peterson has called GSA his primary professional organization for almost twenty years. He has committed his research dissemination and professional service efforts to GSA, including GSA journal publications, 30+ annual meeting poster/paper, and symposia presentations, annual meeting abstract reviews, Health Science (HS) Section Fellow Selection Committee, and Interdisciplinary Symposium Selection Committee. Dr. Peterson is excited about the opportunity to join HS leadership to further support the organization that has been instrumental in his academic journey.

Candidate Statement: *I celebrate GSA's diverse membership group and all of GSA sections' contributions to the organization. I recently engaged with AGHE leadership to develop and lead a teaching institute workshop at the 2023 annual meeting and was a panelist on AGHE's 2023 Presidential Symposium focused on educational needs and strategies across GSA. The broad perspectives that GSA membership brings to the organization was further exemplified for me as an Interdisciplinary Symposium reviewer for the 2025 meeting.*

I wish to serve GSA as HS Vice Chair-Elect primarily to give back to the organization that has been pivotal in my professional growth. It would be an honor to serve GSA to cultivate support and mentorship for future GSA leaders. It is important to engage with ESPO leadership in a collaborative approach to both grow their membership and develop new initiatives aimed at inspiring mentorship and service leadership in new GSA members.

We are in challenging times. GSA is positioned as a leading agent of change, to guide us in traversing this environment with agility and with a steadfast focus on our vastly unique roles in the field of gerontology, with a common vision of leading "meaningful lives as we age."

Personal Statement: *It is paramount to support junior scholars through GSA activities. I was fortunate to have early career mentoring by GSA leadership. This forged a servant-leader mindset for me, and I have focused on providing similar opportunities for the next generation of GSA leaders. I have supported students in attending and presenting at annual meetings, mentored junior faculty on GSA publications, and participated in formal GSA mentoring activities. I have maintained relationships with mentees, now colleagues, for decades. As stated in my Platform Statement, my focus will be on supporting current and developing additional opportunities for new GSA members to engage in mentor and service leadership training. Peer-to-peer and near-peer mentoring programs can offer meaningful development experiences and lasting collaborations for emerging professionals. In addition, our team has developed a best practice mentoring toolkit that I hope to engage ESPO and other sections' leadership to incorporate into targeted mentoring activities in the next four years.*

Lastly, intergenerational opportunities for students and emerging professionals provide a salient experience that is long-lasting. I envision opportunities for roundtables, design challenges, and other intergenerational activities that bring together junior scholars and older adults in meaningful conversations at annual meetings and throughout the year.

Social Research, Policy, and Practice Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)

Emily A. Greenfield, PhD, FGSA
Emily A. Greenfield, PhD, FGSA is a Professor of Social Work (since 2007) and Founding Director of the Hub for Aging Collaboration at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (since 2022). Dr. Greenfield's scholarship seeks to bolster community-centered approaches for advancing innovation and equity in social programs for long and healthy lives. Her work has helped to accelerate 21st century approaches for aging in community, including age- and dementia-friendly community initiatives, housing-based supportive service programs, and the Village Movement. Hallmark features of Dr. Greenfield's scholarship include both studying and participating in cross-sectoral partnerships for social change, as well as centering the voices of people leading on-the-ground community change efforts. For over ten years, she has collaboratively led a statewide partnership network—spanning philanthropic and nonprofit organizations, local and state government, higher education, and grassroot advocates—to spur age-friendly progress in New Jersey. Dr. Greenfield also leads efforts on aging within higher education. For many years, she worked to solidify specialization programs on aging and health within the Rutgers School of Social Work, and she is spearheading multiple initiatives through the Rutgers Hub for Aging Collaboration to cultivate more robust networks of aging-focused faculty, students, and staff across the university.

Candidate Statement: *GSA has been my professional home for over 20 years. Now is an especially meaningful time—both in my own career and considering our aging world—to step up my involvement through officership. I trained as a life course scholar and have had the privilege of 18 years as a social work professor. This background helps me understand GSA's unique strengths and challenges as a multi- and transdisciplinary organization. This lens is especially valuable for SRPP with its broad purview to connect researchers advancing rigorous and socially relevant scholarship on a range of social programs, policy, and practice. As an officer, I would work collaboratively to help ensure that SRPP continues to reflect the diverse strengths and interests of members, with our variety of methodological approaches, substantive questions, theoretical perspectives, translational possibilities, career stages, and life experiences. I also would bring my expertise in inter-organizational and cross-sectoral collaborations on aging. I believe that progress happens when people work "smarter, not harder" together, leveraging their own and others' resources to achieve mutually desired goals. I am excited to learn more about the current priorities of SRPP and GSA, and to contribute in keeping this shared enterprise moving forward for our aging society.*

Personal Statement: *Through my many interactions with GSA staff and colleagues over the years, I have experienced generativity as a core ethos of the society, a value that I strive to emulate in my own work. A primary example of my care and concern for the future of gerontology is through my leadership in founding and directing the Rutgers Hub for Aging Collaboration, which serves to elevate all work on aging within my academic unit and across the University. Like so many other gerontologists, I also work intensely with students to develop their own passion, skills, and careers. Especially since tenure, most of my publications have been with student authors. Also, I have a record of helping to spur improvements with GSA. For example, as a graduate student, I spearheaded the design and launch of the reviewer-in-training program for GSA journals. Today, my own scholarship focuses on developing and translating knowledge to amplify work across sectors and systems-levels to accelerate social change on aging, especially through civic participation and communities. I hope to extend my dedication to working collaboratively, strategically, and innovatively for the benefit of GSA and all whose lives it touches—past, present, and future.*

Edward Alan Miller, PhD, MPA, FGSA

Edward Alan Miller, PhD, MPA, is Professor and Chair, Department of Gerontology, and Fellow, Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts (UMass) Boston. His research focuses on understanding the determinants and effects of public policies and practices affecting older adults in need of long-term services and supports. He has 153 peer-reviewed journal articles, 22 book chapters, 9 books, and 298 presentations. Dr. Miller first attended the GSA annual meeting in 1999. An active member, he served 10 years on the editorial board of The Gerontologist and regularly presents, organizes symposia, and reviews abstracts for the annual meeting, and served twice on the SRPP program committee. He received fellowship status in 2012 and Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Contributions to Healthy Aging in 2024. After earning his PhD in Political Science and Health Services Organization and Policy from the University of Michigan, Dr. Miller completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Public Health at Yale University. He also spent time in New Zealand as a Fulbright scholar and Congressional Research Service as a social policy analyst. Dr. Miller has been Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Aging & Social Policy since 2016. He is also Adjunct Professor of Health Services, Policy & Practice at Brown University.

Candidate Statement: GSA has been my professional home for nearly two decades. I am deeply honored to accept the nomination for SRPP Vice-Chair-Elect. SRPP has a rich history engaging contemporary policy debates. SRPP's role in promoting policy-oriented research and its application in improving older adults' well-being is more important now than ever. I strongly favor SRPP taking an active stance advocating for the resources needed to conduct research that addresses the challenges and opportunities posed by population aging. I wholeheartedly support SRPP members partnering with colleagues and communities adversely impacted by retrenchment to apply our expertise to better support them. It is particularly important that SRPP focus its efforts on underrepresented populations and regions. We can do so through initiatives designed to grow the section's domestic and international membership among scholars with varying backgrounds, research interests, and disciplines, and by fostering networking and mentoring among early career scholars focusing on issues affecting vulnerable, underserved groups. Gerontology is a team sport. All sectors are impacted by aging. SRPP is well-positioned to cultivate collaborations that advance the breadth of human experience. It would be a distinct privilege to apply my decades of experience in policy, research, and education to furthering SRPP's mission as Vice-Chair-Elect.

Personal Statement: I am strongly committed to cultivating the professional growth of early career scholars from all walks of life. UMass Boston has one the most diverse campuses in the U.S. As a professor, program director, and department chair, I have had the privilege of mentoring, collaborating with, and advancing the professional development of students and colleagues from a broad range of backgrounds and nationalities, and receiving a college Award for Outstanding Student Mentorship. I train students to conduct methodologically rigorous and ethically sound investigations, having, for example, co-authored close to 80 peer-reviewed journal articles and more than 105 presentations with mentees. Subsequently, my trainees draw on their skills in research-intensive positions in the academy, government, and other settings. I prioritize growing and diversifying the workforce in aging by implementing innovations to our academic programs, developing funding and service-learning opportunities for students, and recruiting faculty conducting research on underserved and underrepresented communities. Serving as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Aging & Social Policy provides me another platform to support the next generation of scholars. It would be an honor to take my commitment to promoting the professional growth of junior scholars and colleagures to the next level as Vice Chair-Elect of SRPP.