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### Key Moments in History

**2010:** In recognition of the Society's 65th anniversary, the GSA Innovation Fund is launched. Now in 2020, members have the opportunity to contribute to the 75th anniversary fundraising campaign: Honor the Past – Enrich the Future. Donations will support the creation of new GSA professional development and career enhancement resources including a grant writing training program for GSA member researchers, clinicians and educators.

### Join a GSA Interest Group

Did you know GSA has more than 50 interest groups covering a range of topics? They are a great way for members to connect with others who share their interests. They also help members stay informed about topics outside their areas of expertise. Each GSA interest group has its own GSA Connect Community to share information and resources. Visit [geron.org/interestgroups](http://geron.org/interestgroups) to learn more.

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

 <http://connect.geron.org>

 [www.facebook.com/geronsociety](http://www.facebook.com/geronsociety)

 [www.twitter.com/geronsociety](http://www.twitter.com/geronsociety)

Engage with GSA on social media!

## Albert Chosen as GSA's Next Innovation in Aging Editor

GSA has named Steven M. Albert, PhD, FGSA, of the University of Pittsburgh as the next editor-in-chief of the journal *Innovation in Aging*, effective January 2021.



Albert

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Albert as editor-in-chief. He has a stellar career in aging research and has profound leadership and management skills that will be essential in this role," said Ishan C. Williams, PhD, FGSA, the chair of GSA's Program, Publications, and Products Committee. "He has expertise across a broad and diverse range of gerontological research. Under his leadership, the journal will continue to undoubtedly reach new heights in

innovation, integrating issues of equitable research, interventions, and evaluations for a variety of aging foci, to ensure that the journal maintains its growing success."

*Innovation in Aging* is an online open access journal published by Oxford Journals on behalf of GSA. It contains conceptually sound, methodologically rigorous research studies that describe innovative theories, research methods, interventions, evaluations, and policies relevant to aging and the life course.

"In its four years as an online journal, *Innovation in Aging* has already made its mark as a place for cutting-edge research," Albert said. "It attracts high-quality research that cuts across the disparate fields of gerontology."

He added, "it is a great honor to follow Laura

*Continued on page 9*

## 15 Journalists Earn Aging-Focused Reporting Fellowships

GSA and the Journalists Network on Generations are welcoming 15 distinguished reporters for the next cohort of the Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, now in its 11th year.

They represent a wide range of general audience, ethnic, and community media outlets, including public radio and television affiliates, daily newspapers, and national publications. This year's group brings the program's total number of participating reporters to 185. The new fellows were chosen — by a panel of gerontological and editorial professionals — based on their proposals for an in-depth aging-focused story or series.

These projects, to be produced in 2021, span such concerns as mental health challenges of older adults due to COVID-19, issues surrounding senior housing, employment, aging in place, the health of older rural farmworkers, caregivers and caregiving, elder abuse, health disparities, the nursing home and assisted living sectors, changes in U.S. life expectancy, and

California's Master Plan for Aging.

The program is supported by funding from The Silver Century Foundation, The RRF Foundation for Aging, The Commonwealth Fund, The John A. Hartford Foundation, and the Gannett Foundation.

The current cycle of the program will be conducted entirely online. It will commence with a short series of exclusive background and issue-focused educational sessions, taking place across four days between October 28 and November 12. Fellows will additionally participate in GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting Online, taking place from November 4 to 7. The fellowship will showcase research highlights from the meeting and other sources, and host discussions with veteran journalists on how to position aging stories in the current media environment.

"We congratulate our new journalist fellows who, at a time of great disruption, are demonstrating a commitment to serving their communities through vital stories about aging

*Continued on page 10*



## Resilience and Stubborn Optimism in a Year of Adversity

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

At this time of year, the GSA family is usually gathering in person to celebrate scholarship, connect with old friends, and mint new colleagues. And while we will still do that virtually, it's a little harder this year to feel celebratory. But I hope we can all maintain a sense of what one voice called "stubborn optimism" in the months ahead. There is much to be grateful for in this year of extraordinary adversity. You and your Society have helped to advance the field of gerontology in meaningful ways.

### • GSA Establishes COVID-19 Task Force:

President Kathryn Hyer moved quickly to utilize the expertise of GSA members by forming a COVID-19 Task Force. Among their output: a Decision Aid for social situations; a Distancing Guide to promote physical separation without social isolation; information sheets on the aging immune system and ageism; and numerous webinars and a COVID-19 discussion forum, supported by biweekly email updates.

### • GSA Reaches Diamond Anniversary:

The Society turned 75 in 2020, celebrating with the theme "Honor the Past, Enrich the Future." Past President Rosemary Blieszner has led the anniversary activities along with a workgroup. A few anniversary highlights include special articles in each of our journals, Annual Scientific Meeting symposia, and a planning guide to help members mark this milestone even in the age of COVID-19.

### • Annual Scientific Meeting Moves Online:

Even amidst adversity, GSA members prepared presentations for the Annual Scientific Meeting. With the tireless efforts of member leaders and staff, GSA was able to reinvent its meeting for the online environment. And we turned it into GSA's most accessible meeting ever, with unprecedented access to programming content and live discussions with speakers.

### • Journals Continue Upward Climb:

The Society's peer-reviewed journals maintained their dominance with some record-setting impact factors. Dozens of COVID-19 related articles have already been published. *The Journals*

*of Gerontology, Series B and The Gerontologist* both increased their annual issue count. And the new rapid publication model is growing in popularity.

• **Journalism Program Grows:** This year, we welcomed the 11th cohort of our grant-funded Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, which educates reporters on aging and helps them spread accurate coverage to diverse communities. Our 185 alumni to date have generated nearly 700 stories — stories that were often made possible by GSA members' interaction with the reporters. We moved the program online this year, and will be keeping them engaged into 2021 with virtual programming and networking opportunities.

### • Reframing Aging Initiative Makes New Strides:

Housed at GSA, this long-term social change endeavor works to improve the public's understanding of what aging means and the many ways that older people contribute to our society. The initiative had a lot to show for itself in 2020, including the adoption of new bias-free aging language by the AMA Manual of Style, APA Manual of Style, and the AP Style Book! These guidelines for bias free language will now be applied in journals that reach tens of millions of people globally.

• **Advocacy Work Rewarded:** GSA has continued working independently, and with coalition partners, to emphasize the importance of aging issues on Capitol Hill. One of our proudest moments in 2020 was the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. GSA contributed language to the final bill and worked with other stakeholder organizations on several provisions that are now law. GSA has been actively engaged in issues surround immunization policy as well, something of special importance as the country pursues development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

**Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday season.**

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## In Memoriam

**Rachel Filinson, PhD**, passed away on July 7. She was a professor of sociology and director of the Gerontology Program at Rhode Island College, where she worked for 33 years. She had a distinguished scholarly career, publishing over 75 articles and leveraging an outstanding record of grant support. She spent eight years as chair of the Sociology Department and spearheaded the process of the college's recognition as an age-friendly campus.

**Sheri Wynne Sussman** passed away on September 11. In her role as editor at Springer Publishing Company for over 20 years, she was a major force in bringing gerontology to the classroom and research community. She adopted the strategy of Ursula Springer, who made Springer Publishing so important for gerontology: identify a gap in the literature, find authors conducting key research, track them down at GSA meetings, offer them book contracts, badger them until they turn in a manuscript, and, of course, extend deadlines.

As Springer notes, "Sheri rolled up her sleeves, jangled her myriad bracelets, and took on whatever was needed during her long history with the company. She started in marketing, did copyediting, proofreading, and development, and served as managing editor before assuming her position as Executive Editor."

Her authors include many GSA members. She spurred authors to put together important edited volumes, textbooks, encyclopedia entries, and research monographs. She reliably attended the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting and made a point of getting outside the exhibition hall to attend sessions and stay current with the science.

A New Yorker to the core, Sheri was an effective traffic cop at the Springer booth at GSA conferences. She could hold conversations with three people at a time while processing a book order and handing out her business card. Donations in her name can be sent to Harlem Grown. (Submitted by Steven Albert, PhD, FGSA, and Toni Antonucci, PhD, FGSA.)

**Helen Q. Kivnick, PhD, FGSA**, died on September 14 at age 70. The Q stands for "Quintessa" and she was quintessential in all she did. She was a professor of Social Work at the University of Minnesota where she worked for three decades. She received her doctorate from the University of Michigan and was licensed as clinical psychologist and a clinical social worker. Kivnick's research, teaching and service reflected her interest in the promotion of healthy life-cycle development across the life course, music and arts participation, social justice and intercultural relations.

Early in her career, she coauthored the seminal text "Vital Involvement in Old Age" (1986) with Eric and Joan Erikson. She developed the concept of Vital Involvement Practice, a strengths-based model in which personal vitality can support psychosocial well-being in older adults by offsetting the impact of physical, cognitive and social losses, and societal constraints. Kivnick was a trained musician and had a lifelong commitment to the arts that was evident in her engaged scholarship.

As the founder and Executive Director of CitySongs, she used singing to promote healthy development among at-risk inner city youth and bridge racial and ethnic relations in the Twin Cities. More recently she helped establish the Giving Voice Chorus, a choir program for people with dementia, care partners, and community volunteers which has inspired a social movement with over 60 choirs nationally and internationally.

She provided sustained leadership to the GSA Humanities and Arts Committee over more than 30 years. Over the past decade, Kivnick served as the associate editor of the Humanities and Arts Section of *The Gerontologist*. She was a mentor to many who benefited from her intelligence, integrity and extraordinary warmth. She was audacious with her ideas and inspirational in her actions to advance social justice 20 years before it was articulated as "black lives matter." She exemplified vital involvement in living fully while facing the challenges imposed by her cancer diagnosis. She made the world a better place and her death has caused deep and widely felt grief, always and forever. (Submitted by Debra Sheets, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA.)

**Francis G. "Frank" Caro, PhD, FGSA**, passed away on October 2. He was a professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He received his PhD in sociology from the University of Minnesota, and later went on to teach at Marquette University, University of Colorado in Boulder, and Brandeis University in the Florence Heller School of Social Welfare. From 1974 to 1988, Caro served as the research director at the Community Service Society of New York. In 1988, he became the director of the Gerontology Institute at University of Massachusetts Boston, where he had also served for a time as the chair of the Gerontology Department. For many years, Caro edited the *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*, and until his death, he reviewed academic articles for *The Gerontologist*.

## Colleague Connection

This month's \$25 amazon.com gift certificate winner:

**Eva Kahana, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE**

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member [Ananya Sarker, MA, MS](#), was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion visit [www.geron.org/connection](http://www.geron.org/connection).

## Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members.

The current spotlight shines on:

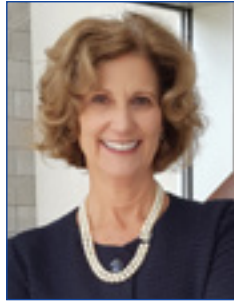
**[Shannon Ang, PhD](#)**

## Members in the News

- In late August, several news outlets quoted Eileen Crimmins, PhD, FGSA, regarding a study she co-authored that reported almost three times more Americans are killed by dementia than previously thought.
- A September 3 Kaiser Health News article titled "Why Black Aging Matters, Too" included quotes from Keith Whitfield, PhD, FGSA, Karen Lincoln, PhD, FGSA, and Robert Joseph Taylor, PhD.
- On September 18, NPR's "Science Friday" program welcomed Robert Applebaum, PhD, FGSA.

## GSA's President Shares Insight on 2020, Policy Learnings

I have had the pleasure of working with GSA President Kathryn Hyer, MPP, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE, for many years in various roles, and I had always planned on doing an interview with her to share with you her perspective on one of my favorite topics — the role of GSA members in advocacy. She agreed but then the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, and all our lives were changed. Now as we complete our preparations for the Annual Scientific Meeting Online, I have a chance to catch-up with Kathy as she reflects on her successful but difficult year of service to GSA.



Hyer

**Brian Lindberg:** Congratulations on successfully leading GSA through a challenging year. Before we get into public policy, please share your thoughts on how GSA and our members stepped up to the many obstacles thrown our way this year.

**Kathy Hyer:** It has been an honor serving as The Gerontological Society of America's president in 2020, the Society's 75th anniversary year where we have tried to both "honor the past and enrich the future." The collective response of our unique family of researchers, clinicians, and educators to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the racial injustice in our society has been remarkable.

Our careers in the aging field have prepared us to take on the unknown, to solve problems, celebrate diversity, and to find innovative ways to improve the lives of all older adults, so in some ways we were prepared. Even so, our colleagues have risen to the many challenges that 2020 has brought, using science, sensitivity, and community-oriented thinking.

**Lindberg:** What are some of the highlights and successes of this past year...ways that you saw GSA moving forward regardless of the pandemic?

**Hyer:** Two things stand out. I am proud of GSA's COVID-19 pandemic response and the invaluable work our members have done in the field. From the excellent resources on the website, to the cutting-edge articles we are producing, to members testifying before Congress on the pandemic, I am so pleased with our contributions during this crisis.

Just take a look at the article index on the site [[www.geron.org/covid19](http://www.geron.org/covid19)] to get started. On the advocacy front, we partnered with other organizations to secure resources for NIH, CDC, HRSA, and other critical agencies fighting the pandemic, and we supported and secured more than \$1 billion in additional funds for aging supports and services delivered by the aging network.

AGHE has been active as well with the transformation of classroom education to virtual learning, offering free trainings

on online, and creating a myriad of other resources to help GSA members adjust to online education. As we know, it has been quite a year for many organizations like ours, but on a human level, we probably all have friends and loved ones that have been lost this year.

Second, I am proud to have established the Diversity and Justice Working Group, chaired by Keith Whitfield, PhD, FGSA. Our purpose is to make tangible and actionable recommendations to our Board of Directors to increase diversity and inclusion among the membership of GSA. The working group will review existing policies and make recommendations on policies and practices to improve the organization's ability to meet the needs our members and expand our contributions to society during these turbulent times.

Let me add a third: transforming GSA's in-person meeting to this new format has been an exciting process to say the least and has provided us the opportunity to explore new ways of supporting members presenting their scholarship, discussing emerging science with colleagues, and networking with meeting attendees. We have definitely made a big jug of lemonade! We have seen some interesting benefits to the new online venue, such as allowing a much larger audience to participate, eliminating travel concerns for many members, and in some cases making it easier for longtime members to attend and for first-time attendees to check out what makes our meeting so popular.

**Lindberg:** I often talk about why facts matter in policymaking and your meeting theme is "Turning 75: Why Age Matters." I like it but what does it mean to you?

**Hyer:** Seventy-five is an important milestone for GSA. It's a testimony to our stability and strength, our ability to grow, adapt to changes, and thrive. And once again we're adapting by hosting a state-of-the-art conference online.

**Lindberg:** You have promoted education and advocacy at the state and federal levels with legislators and regulators; why have you made this a part of your very full academic, research, and practice life?

**Hyer:** States play a critical role in health care policy. States license health care professionals (which varies by state), and they regulate health insurance and some facilities. For example, nurses have learned this and have worked to allow nurse practitioners to have a more consistent scope of practice. States determine assisted living regulations, and the states vary dramatically in who is allowed to do what — including admission criteria. Without looking at state policy, it is difficult to create quality care for older adults across the continuum.

As you know, I have been a strong advocate within the organizations I serve for a federal presence in policymaking. We have science and facts *and* compassion for older adults and that makes our work and our stories important to Congress and the executive branch. GSA has had quite a successful year at the federal



level, particularly with our involvement with the Older Americans Act, GWEP, and GACA reauthorization bills. I only hope that Congress now provides some much-needed funding for the new OAA Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center created under the Administration of Community Living. Our leadership in the Eldercare Workforce Alliance has enabled us to focus on the direct care workforce, another important priority for us this year.

**Lindberg:** You are a recognized expert (and experienced Hill witness) on the issues of emergency preparedness and disaster relief. What are the key takeaways you see from this unique disaster — the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Hyer:** As you know from my Hill testimony, Brian, being a professor in the School of Aging Studies at the University of South Florida has put me in a position to study and influence emergency preparedness for many years. Unfortunately, policymakers do not always take advice or implement it quickly enough. The pandemic has highlighted the lack of preparedness of many nursing homes and assisted living facilities. It has also taught us so much about the devastation of not only this virus, but of the social isolation and loneliness that can also be debilitating and deadly to residents.

Long-term care facilities are once again the stepchild to hospitals for critical resources that could have saved the lives of both staff and residents. Even now these facilities are fighting for personal protection equipment and for resources for COVID-9 testing. For me, it has highlighted again the importance of staff but the lack of resources for staffing — lack of sick leave and benefits for the direct care workers who are the backbone of the industry.

In all of this tragedy, we have seen some profiles in courage — like Dr. Fauci — who have tried to focus on and pursue the science in order to educate, shape good public policy, and stimulate informed public discourse and decision-making. We still have a long way to go with this virus, and we'll need science to continue to guide us.

**Lindberg:** As the former president of the National Association for Geriatric Education, would you comment on the role that the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEPs), former GWEPs, and Geriatric Education Centers have played during the pandemic?

**Hyer:** I have admired the work of the GWEPs this year as they have quickly adapted. Most of their programs and training, including educational events for health care professionals, caregivers, and community partners, had to be converted to online opportunities. They also have created excellent COVID-19 training materials for use in clinical and social service settings and telehealth settings. In fact, some of the GWEP staff have also been frontline care providers during this period. Kudos for the work of the National Association for Geriatric Education (and GSA) for advocating for the additional funds the GWEPs received in the CARES Act and for the American Geriatrics Society's GWEP Coordinating Center and its valued pandemic resources, and of course to HRSA for getting resources to the GWEP sites.

**Lindberg:** Is there anything else you'd like to say to members about getting involved and the need to communicate what they know to policy makers?

**Hyer:** Policy is important for all sections of GSA. It may not seem as obvious to some, but every member should recognize that science policy and funding are often driven by the larger political and policy environment in Washington, so we need to be a part of that if possible. I noted that GSA's Public Policy Advisory Panel had a [recent webinar worth viewing](#) on making our research and work relevant to policymakers; we should all watch it!

**Lindberg:** Well, thank you again for fitting in our chat during these busy and turbulent times! Any additional words for our colleagues?

**Hyer:** Thank you for the honor to serve as GSA's president. Our leadership team and the GSA staff have successfully guided us through this unparalleled year. Obviously, we missed being together in Philadelphia, but I hope that you took and continue to take full advantage of the 300 symposia, 450 paper presentations, 1,500 posters, and the live discussions we have assembled for you. The content will be available to stream afterward as well, along with online presenter discussions specific to each presentation. GSA is undoubtedly home to the world's leading researchers in aging and our ASM and publications set the standard in the field. For me, it is wonderful to be a part of this family.

## Recent GSA Policy Actions

**GSA** signed on to a letter to the National Science Foundation (NSF) leadership highlighting the role of scientific societies in the scientific ecosystem and advancing our various disciplines. Notably, scientific societies reflect NSF's mission within respective disciplines through publishing and disseminating peer-reviewed science; creating venues for the sharing of scientific information; providing professional development to train the next generation of scientists, as well as for scientists at every career stage, without regard to specific institution; and educating the public about the fundamental role of science.

**GSA** signed on to a letter from the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC) to Department of Health and Human Services leadership to ensure equitable allocation, distribution, access, and utilization of forthcoming COVID-19 vaccines. This included recommendations for the following actions:

- Provide full transparency at every stage of the process to foster public confidence and maximize vaccine acceptance and use, especially among communities that have been the hardest hit by, and are most susceptible to severe illness as a result of, COVID-19.
- Ensure information, resources, and vaccines reach and are utilized by at-risk and underrepresented populations.
- Support essential immunization infrastructure and the community-based immunization providers.

# 2020 awardees

The following awards will have been announced during GSA's 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting online. The Society salutes the outstanding researchers below for their contributions to gerontology and thanks the selection committees for their time and efforts in choosing the recipients.

## Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education



**Administrative Leadership Honor**  
Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, PhD  
University of Maryland, Baltimore Country



**Mildred M. Seltzer Distinguished Service Honor**  
Douglas P. Reed, PhD, FAGHE  
University of Central Oklahoma



**Graduate Student Paper Award**  
Yang Li, MS, MA  
University of Massachusetts Boston



**Part Time/Admin Faculty Honor**  
Mary Francis DeRose, PhD  
University of Massachusetts Boston

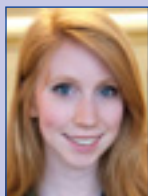
## Behavioral and Social Sciences Section



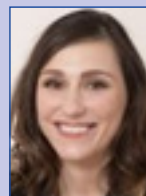
**Student Research Award, Pre-Dissertation**  
Jin Hui Wen, MA  
University of British Columbia



**Student Research Award, Dissertation**  
Shenghao Zhang, PhD  
Florida State University



**T.J. McCallum Memorial Student Registration Award**  
Julia G. Burgdorf, PhD  
John's Hopkins University  
This award honors student members with a focus on caregiving or technology.



**T.J. McCallum Memorial Student Registration Award**  
Athena Koumoutzis, MA  
Miami University  
This award honors student members with a focus on caregiving or technology.



**T.J. McCallum Memorial Student Registration Award**  
Jing Huang, BS  
The University of Hong Kong  
This award honors student members with a focus on caregiving or technology.



**T.J. McCallum Memorial Student Registration Award**  
Yee To Ng, MA  
The University of Texas at Austin  
This award honors student members with a focus on caregiving or technology.



**T.J. McCallum Memorial Student Registration Award**  
Elizabeth K. Rhodus, PhD  
University of Kentucky  
This award honors student members with a focus on caregiving or technology.

# 2020 awardees

## Health Science Section



**Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award**  
Kenneth J. Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR  
University of Texas



**Person-In-Training Award**  
Martha C. Coates, MSN, RN, CRNP  
Drexel University



**Joseph T. Freeman Award**  
Cynthia J. Brown, MD, MSPH  
University of Alabama at Birmingham



**Research Award**  
Jian-Yu E, MD, ScD, MPH  
Johns Hopkins University

## Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization



**Interdisciplinary Paper Award**  
Catherine Garcia, PhD  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln



**Poster Award**  
Peiyi Lu, MSW  
Iowa State University



**Poster Award**  
Kallol Kumar Bhattacharyya, MBBS, MA  
University of South Florida



**Poster Award**  
Emily L. Mroz, MS  
University of Florida

## Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee Student Poster Award



**Student Research Award, Pre-Dissertation**  
Eunyong Choi, MA  
University of Southern California

For information on GSA's awards, visit  
[www.geron.org/membership/awards](http://www.geron.org/membership/awards).

# new resources

## Report Provides Strategies and Resources for PALTC Facilities During COVID-19

A new report from the federal COVID-19 Healthcare Resilience Working Group, [“COVID-19: Considerations, Strategies, and Resources for Crisis Standards of Care in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care \(PALTC\) Facilities.”](#) says that PALTC facilities need to adjust operations and standards of care in order to preserve and effectively allocate limited facility and system resources.

The working group is a partnership with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other federal agencies — with assistance and content contributions from AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine and others.

The report provides PALTC facilities with general considerations, potential strategies, and existing resources that can be used to inform changes to operations and care processes. Among the report’s suggestions:

- PALTC facilities should have emergency preparedness programs and plans in place that are consistent with any applicable regulatory requirements and national guidelines; however, those plans may need to be augmented with crisis management protocols that address the unique challenges and threats posed by COVID-19.
- Staffing models need to account for increased demands and potentially diminished staff as the level of care changes from conventional to contingency and as staff may themselves fall ill

and/or are otherwise unavailable.

- Standards of care at all levels should adhere to core ethical principles, including fairness, duty to care, duty to steward resources, transparency in decision-making, consistency, proportionality, and accountability.
  - Advance care planning discussions that take a patient-centered approach are particularly critical during the pandemic.
  - Communication with residents and their families is one of the most important parts of crisis management
- “AMDA is pleased to have participated in the creation of this report and to provide access to resources such as our Advance Care Planning toolkit,” said Executive Director Christopher E. Laxton, CAE. “We want to make sure PALTC facilities have everything they need to effectively and efficiently manage during this difficult time and provide the best possible care to residents.”

## CAPC Report Looks at Expansion of Palliative Care

The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) has released a new publication, “The Case for Community-Based Palliative Care.” The resource aims to help programs expand palliative care in all settings outside of hospitals — in medical offices and clinics, in post-acute and long-term care facilities, and in patient homes. The publication includes key data on the value of community-based palliative care, program profiles, and a case example to use with leadership.

# funding opportunities

## RRF Foundation for Aging Accepting Grant Applications; Welcomes Worthington to Staff

[The RRF Foundation for Aging](#) (formerly The Retirement Research Foundation) is accepting proposal applications for its next grant cycle. The deadline is February 1, 2021. During the last 42 years, RRF has awarded nearly 5,000 grants worth almost \$250 million — all dedicated to improving the quality of life of older people. RRF recently completed a strategic planning process that sharpened this commitment and focused its grantmaking on four priority areas:

- Caregiving
- Economic Security in Later Life
- Housing
- Social and Intergenerational Connectedness

While the priority areas reflect RRF’s primary funding interests, the foundation will remain open to considering compelling applications on other topics. RRF was one of the first private foundations to focus exclusively on aging issues, and it has always had a very integrated approach to its grantmaking. The foundation continues to support advocacy, direct service,

professional education/training, research, and organizational capacity building efforts.

Proposals for direct service projects are considered from organizations based in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, or Florida. Advocacy, training, and research projects, all with national relevance, are considered from organizations in any state. Organizational capacity building requests are accepted from nonprofits located in Illinois.

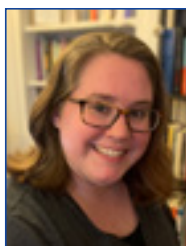
RRF offers an opportunity for applicants to submit a brief (one to three pages) letter of inquiry as part of its grantmaking process. Letters should be [submitted online](#) by December 1 for the February 1 proposal deadline.

RRF also recently announced Serena Worthington has joined the foundation as program officer. Worthington has significant experience in aging services and advocacy at the national level, but also has strong ties to local communities. In her most recent role as director of U.S. and Global Collaborations at SAGE, she oversaw a broad network of affiliate organizations, forged coalitions, and launched successful collaborative efforts to catalyze policies and programs in support of LGBTQ older people.



## Get to Know Your Junior Leaders: Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education

Hello from Lauren Bouchard, your Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) junior leader! I am currently earning my PhD in gerontology from Concordia University Chicago. I have a master's degree in Clinical-Counseling Psychology from Illinois State University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). My current doctoral



Bouchard

work focuses on the intersections between aging, mental health, spirituality/religion, and gerontology curriculum. I have been a member of GSA since 2018, and I presented posters on medical cannabis and post-traumatic growth last year in Austin, Texas. I am also an enthusiastic college level instructor and passionate advocate for aging education in faith communities.

As a junior leader for AGHE, I serve as a member of the AGHE leadership team and bridge the gap to emerging scholar interests. This year has been especially challenging for students and emerging professionals in formal higher education programs. Many of us are balancing the precarity of education and career interests with the knowledge that COVID-19 is also disproportionately affecting older adults and those in long term care. Ageist attitudes and beliefs are abundant and the importance of calling out ageism is more apparent than ever.

GSA includes emerging scholars and seasoned experts with a

wide variety of worldwide gerontological interests. We have the opportunity to educate both within higher education institutions and community settings, especially as people become curious about why aging matters. At the Annual Scientific Meeting Online this year I am leading a symposium called, "Bridging the Gap: Shifting Population Dynamics and Opportunities to Inform and Educate Communities." Presenters will focus on creating intergenerational community programming for rural older adults, surveying ageist attitudes among undergraduate students and older adult community members, creating aging education for faith communities, and developing and evaluating education for Chinese immigrant caregivers. AGHE also has many other symposium events, poster presentations, and informal networking opportunities.

Regardless of your research and applied interests, I encourage you to check out the AGHE programming for ESPO and GSA members. Throughout the pandemic, the leadership team has expertly crafted teaching related supports (e.g., peer-to-peer sessions, AGHE Connect Live!, and Teaching Tips, to name a few). AGHE also has volunteer and awards opportunities (e.g., student leadership award, graduate student paper award, James McKenney Student Travel Award, etc.). Also please consider applying to be a junior leader for AGHE, especially if you are excited about education and hope to teach for a more age-friendly world.

I hope to see everyone at the 2020 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting Online to discuss why aging matters in education and beyond.

*Continued from page 1 – Albert Chosen as GSA's Next Innovation in Aging Editor*

Sands as editor-in-chief and to press ahead with the journal's vision of a truly translational gerontology. It has broken new ground with a series of special issues that stress convergence of disciplines in gerontological science. I look forward to working with contributors, reviewers, and our Editorial Board to build on this success."

Albert is a professor and chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences in the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also the Hallen Chair of Social Justice and Community Health. He has research experience in public health, aging, HIV, neurologic and psychiatric disease, and health behavior.

He has served as principal investigator on three NIH R01 efforts and currently co-directs the Clinical and Population Outcomes Core of the University of Pittsburgh NIA Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center. He also served as co-director and then director of the U Pitt CDC Prevention Research Center and a HRSA Public

Health Social Work Leadership training program. He has also chaired an NIH study section. In CDC-funded research, his team completed an evaluation of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's statewide falls prevention program that established the evidence base for the program and allowed the program to be certified for Title-IIIID ACL/AoA funding. His current research examines the population health of older adults by merging human services program data with hospital electronic health records.

He currently serves on the editorial boards of *The Gerontologist*, *Preventive Medicine*, *the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, and the *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. His research has appeared in *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, *Innovation in Aging*, and *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, as well as journals in public health, psychiatry, neurology, and health policy.

## The Gerontologist Issues Call for Papers on Social Determinants of Health

*The Gerontologist* is seeking papers for a special issue on social determinants of health, especially focused on racial inequities in the context of aging, late life experiences, and aging communities. The papers should go beyond describing the existence of disparities to address conceptual and implementation insights and challenges

to changing policy and practice. The editors encourage papers that use intersectionality as a conceptual, methodological, analytical, and praxis-oriented framework to examine the ways in which compounding forms of inequality create obstacles to (health) equity while challenging existing social systems to advance the cause of social justice in health. Abstracts are due January 15, 2021. Visit [bit.ly/GSA-CFPs](http://bit.ly/GSA-CFPs) to review the full call.

## *Continued from page 1 – 15 Journalists Earn Aging-Focused Reporting Fellowships*

in America,” said Todd Kluss, GSA’s director of communications. “We are happy to provide a unique venue where these reporters can interact with top authorities to better understand everything from scientific discoveries to social and policy debates.”

Kluss co-directs the program together with independent age-beat journalist Liz Seegert, who serves as program coordinator of the fellowship’s media partner, the Journalists Network on Generations.

“I’m excited to work with this year’s outstanding group of fellows to help them pursue multiple angles on what it means to grow older in the United States,” Seegert said. “The fellowship will connect them to sources and data that can enrich their coverage and ultimately develop richer, more nuanced stories which comprise the many different aspects of aging.”

Continuing fellowship grants also are being provided to allow 10 previous fellows to participate in the program and GSA’s meeting. A continuously updated list of nearly 700 stories generated by the program’s alumni is available at [www.geron.org/](http://www.geron.org/) coverage. The new fellows:

**Lola Butcher** (Undark Magazine)

Project: A long-form article on why U.S. life expectancy and many other measures of health status are worse than that of other high-income nations.

**Xuanlu “Melody” Cao** (SinoVision Inc, New York, New York)

Project: An in-depth video series, “Mental Health of Asian American Seniors in Pandemic.”

**Diane Eastabrook** (PBS Next Avenue)

Project: A two-part article series on emerging issues in the aging of the workforce, “Older Workers in Corporate America.”

**John Ferrannini** (Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco, California)

Project: Series on LGBTQ elder housing issues, including the pandemic’s impact, senior isolation, a national overview and the status of low-income older adults.

**Carl L. Johnson** (PolyByDesign and Faika Broadcast/KALI-FM, Court Fair Oaks, California)

Project: Series on older Pacific Islanders’ standard of living and healthcare, including the impact of the pandemic.

**Jenny Manrique** (Palabra, news site of the National Hispanic Journalists Association)

Project: The pandemic’s effects on Latino elders and direct-care staff in Texas, California, and the rest of the U.S.

**Margaret “Peggy” Sands Orchowski, PhD** (The Georgetown, Washington DC)

Project: A series of five monthly columns, “The Changing Cityscape of Silver Cities,” on aging in one of the area’s more prominent but also diverse communities.

**Jatika H. Patterson** (The Crisis, magazine of the NAACP)

Project: An article examining solutions to poor care and abuses in many Medicaid-only facilities serving Black and other low-income elders.

**Nargis Rahman** (Tostada Magazine, Detroit, Michigan)

Project: A three-part series on Detroit Bangladeshi older adults, especially women, and how local leaders combat misinformation in immigrant communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Rachel Roubein** (Politico)

Project: An investigative article on what COVID-19 reveals about lingering policy failures on long-term care in the U.S.

**Lara Salahi** (Gannett Media’s New England North Unit)

Project: A three-part series, “Reimagining Elder Care in the Age of Coronavirus.”

**Maria Sestito** (The Desert Sun, Palm Springs, California)

Project: A five-part series on how COVID-19 exposes older adult isolation and related issues of long-term care as a persistent problem.

**Casey Smith** (The Associated Press/Report for America)

Project: A six-part series on conflicts of interests in the assisted-living industry.

**Eduardo Stanley** (Community Alliance/“Nuestro Foro,” KFCF 88.1 FM, Fresno, California)

Project: A two-part series with photographs, “Immigrant Latino Farmworkers Aging.”

**Julia Yarbough** (“Action News Now,” KHSL/KNVN, Chico, California)

Project: A three-part series on senior caregiving in California — Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Master Plan for Aging after one year; senior-care facility operations during the pandemic; and the effects of capital investment firms on care in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities.

**Congratulations!**



**Sean Curran, PhD  
Vincent Cristafalo  
Award Winner**

On behalf of Dean Pinchas Cohen, MD and  
all of your colleagues at

**USC Leonard Davis**

School of Gerontology

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