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Record-Breaking Meeting Includes Call for Era of 'Scientist-Citizens'

New Awardees

The GSA 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting included recognition of the many GSA awardees who were highlighted in [last month's Gerontology News](#). Onsite, GSA named two additional recipients of Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education awards.



Mildred Seltzer
Distinguished Service Honor

Jennifer Mendez, PhD,
FAGHE, Wayne State University



Part-Time/Adjunct Faculty Honor

Gina Maguire, MSW, LSW,
Stockton University

GSA welcomed more than 4,600 registrants – a new high record for attendance – from November 12 to 15 for the recent Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, with attendees from 45 countries. Further, a record number of late-breaking paper and poster abstracts came in this year.

During the opening session, members

were urged to take on a new advocacy role: that of "scientist-citizen." CEO James Appleby explains further on page 2.

The [meeting program website](#) will remain online for several months. Turn to pages 8 and 9 for more facts and photos from the four-day event.

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Webinars Navigate Clinical Implementation of New Alzheimer's Therapies



[Implementing Anti-Amyloid Therapies: Conversations with Clinical Leaders](#) is a new webinar series – developed by GSA in

collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association – that provides guidance to primary care providers and others for implementing recently approved therapies to delay the progression of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

"These medications are a total game changer. I can't emphasize that enough," said Paul Schulz, MD, a professor of neurology in the McGovern Medical School at the

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Join a GSA Interest Group

Did you know GSA [has more than 60 interest groups](#) covering a range of topics? Each has its own GSA Connect Community to share information and resources.

Stay Connected



From the CEO

Looking for a New Year's Resolution? Become a Scientist-Citizen



*By James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH
jappleby@geron.org*

Returning from GSA's 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, I've been reflecting on how grateful I am for the many roles our members play in advancing our understanding of aging, supporting the next generation of researchers, and improving our lives as we age.

In Boston, I asked our opening session audience to take on one more role: that of scientist-citizens. (It's a play on the term citizen scientists, who are members of the public that contribute to scientific research.) I envision scientist-citizens as scholars, researchers, clinicians, and educators committed to proactive personal and public engagement that improves understanding of science and policies that support all of us as we age.

The citizen-scientists concept was inspired by the nation-shaping history that unfolded in Boston, home to the intellectual and inspirational underpinning of the American Revolution. Ordinary citizens were called upon in unexpected ways, such as becoming citizen soldiers to defend liberty. These individuals took on much larger roles than they ever imagined and set our country on a journey of "pursuing a more perfect union" that has lasted almost 250 years.

In 2025, we find ourselves in a disruptive environment in which some officials are devaluing the importance of expertise, undermining science, weakening public health, and sanctioning the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

I ask you to join GSA in standing up for expertise and science, much like concerned citizens answered the call in the 1770s. As career researchers, clinicians, educators, and professionals, you have the exact skills needed

to help defend the integrity and importance of science and ensure that the next generation is prepared to continue your work.

Your scientific expertise can educate family, friends, neighbors, work colleagues, and state and federal elected officials to encourage all to stand up for scientific integrity, support robust funding for science, and protect our long-term well-being.

Who are good role models of scientist citizens? I think of Carl Sagan, Jane Goodall, Robert Butler, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Francis Collins, Bill Nye, and our GSA 2025 keynote speaker, Leana Wen.

To support you in cultivating your scientist-citizen skills, GSA has produced a four-part webinar series titled "[Telling Your Story: Translating Your Work to Reach New Audiences and Advance Science](#)." And we recently took on a leadership role in supporting the new [Americans for Medical Research campaign](#), which provides training on how to be an advocate. GSA's own website includes [a wealth of additional advocacy tools](#), such as scripts to call or write your representative or senator's Washington, DC, or local offices. And we provide the [Federal Policy Pulse newsletter](#) to your inboxes each Monday.

Finally, you're invited to join us for [GSA Capitol Hill Advocacy Day 2026](#) in Washington, DC, on March 10 and 11. We plan to repeat the success of our 2025 event, where GSA trained 77 members to be scientist-citizens and conduct impactful visits with their members of congress.

I invite each of you to take on the mantle of scientist-citizen and make a difference at this critical time in the history of the United States. Exercise your advocacy skills and stand up for science and democracy.

MemberNews

In Memoriam



Lucille Beth Bearon, PhD, FAGHE

Lucille passed away on October 21 at the age of 74. At North Carolina State University, she was the adult development and aging specialist for the

North Carolina Cooperative Extension, where she enjoyed working with extension agents across the state to develop and deliver curriculum to their communities. Among her many accomplishments, she received the Applied Gerontologist Award and the Gordon Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award from the Southern Gerontological Society, and served on the

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

She previously worked for the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, and taught courses on aging at Norfolk State University, North Carolina Central University, Elon University, and Meredith College.

Member Referral Program

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

Lee Jennings, MD (who referred new member **Carrie Jankowski, MSW**)

To learn how you can become eligible, visit: www.geron.org/referral.



Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: **[Richard Thomas Moore, MA, DSc \(h.c.\)](#)**

Online Anytime

The Society's online learning center for resources offers cutting-edge toolkits, engaging webinars, and thought-provoking podcasts. It's your passport to staying ahead in the ever-evolving field of aging studies.



New Webinar:

- [A Life Course Approach to Aging and Opioid Use, Innovation in Aging Special Issue](#)

New Podcasts:

- [Empowering America's Caregivers: A Roadmap to a Better Future](#)
- [Family Caregiving from the Personal to the Professional](#)
- Three Momentum Discussion episodes developed in collaboration with the [National Council of Dementia Minds](#):
 - o [Dementia: Benefits of an Early Diagnosis](#)
 - o [Dementia Diagnosis to One Year Out: Perspectives of People Living with Dementia](#)
 - o [Living Well with Dementia](#)

Log in to GSA Enrich today and make the most of these resources to enhance your knowledge and career growth!

Be sure to follow GSA Momentum Discussions and GSA on Aging on Podbean or wherever you get your podcasts.

Recent Policy Actions



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



Thomas Jordan Miles III, BA
Director of Policy

Visit www.geron.org/advocacy to learn more about GSA's advocacy-related activities, including our weekly [Federal Policy Pulse](#) newsletter.

GSA members – acting as scientist-citizens – [wrote over 200 advocacy postcards](#) during the Annual Scientific Meeting, urging their members of Congress to protect and strengthen the health and aging research ecosystem. Colleagues urged their representatives to support the research funding for the National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Aging.

GSA sent [a comment letter](#) to the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) prior to its December meeting. GSA urged the ACIP to protect access and choice to vaccines including maintaining the hepatitis B birth dose recommendation so that no newborn is left without the opportunity for early, critical protection. The letter also highlighted [GSA's Concentric Value of Vaccination as We Age](#) initiative.

GSA Vice President for Policy and Professional Affairs Patricia M. "Trish" D'Antonio, BSP Pharm, MS, MBA, BCGP, hosted a podcast with National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) CEO Jason Resendez, titled "[Empowering America's Caregivers: A Roadmap to a Better Future](#)." This GSA Policy Profile Podcast episode explores the latest data and policy potential presented in NAC and AARP's "[Caregiving in the U.S. 2025](#)" report.

Summer Internship Opportunity

Are you a graduate student interested in aging policy or learning about how research can contribute to policies affecting the health and well-being of older people? Join GSA colleagues for a discussion of the responsibilities and opportunities of [GSA's O'Neill and Hyer Summer Policy Internship](#) on January 12. [Register today!](#)

November Brings Surge in Federal Caregiving Action

By Brian Lindberg, MMHS, FGSA
GSA Policy Advisor

Each year, November is designated as National Family Caregivers Month, and advocates use these opportunities to highlight activities and news affecting their issues. This year, I'd like to call attention to several noteworthy events you might have missed while preparing for, attending,

and traveling to the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston.

The National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) convened the Caregiver Nation Summit on November 5 and 6 in Washington, DC, and online, focusing in part on data from the recently released "[Caregiving in the US 2025](#)" report. For an in-depth discussion, tune into the interview that GSA Vice President for Policy and Professional Affairs Patricia M. "Trish" D'Antonio, BSP Pharm, MS, MBA, BCGP,



conducted with NAC CEO Jason Resendez: [“Empowering America’s Caregivers: A Roadmap to a Better Future.”](#)

New [state-level analysis](#) by AARP and NAC revealed overarching trends as well as significant state-level disparities:

- The percentage of adults who are caregivers ranges from 20% in Washington, DC, to 34% in Mississippi.
- The share of caregivers providing high-intensity care ranges from 31% in Wisconsin to 53% in Louisiana.
- Nearly half of all caregivers face financial strain nationally; in Georgia the figure rises to 59% and in Minnesota it drops to 34%.

A memorable summit moment came when Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey stated: “I want to fix the issue of caregiving in the Senate before I am done.” He is one of the nation’s 63 million family caregivers who understand the profound challenges of care.

As NAC Vice President for Government Affairs and Policy Elaine Dalpiaz stated, “Sixty-one percent of family caregivers work while also providing care. They juggle their jobs, their families, and their caregiving responsibilities. We are in a caregiving crisis. Family caregivers need more support. Programs as home- and community-based services, paid leave, and tax credits are vital and a step in the right direction.”

Also in November, the Caregiver Nation Coalition, including NAC and 67 national organizations, sent a [letter](#) to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services urging federal regulators to protect family caregivers as states implement new Medicaid work requirements in the FY 2025 budget reconciliation law.

The Administration for Community Living held a briefing on November 18 titled “The Power of Caregivers for a Healthy America: Building a Better Future Together.” It recognized the

nation’s more than 63 million family caregivers and announced a [Caregiver Artificial Intelligence Prize Competition](#).

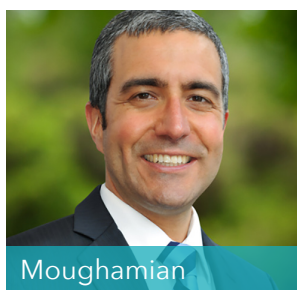
Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts introduced a [package of bills](#) that GSA is supporting.

GSA CEO James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH, ScD (Hon), said, “Family caregivers are an essential structural component of our communities across the nation. This legislative package will enable caregivers to continue providing high-quality care while maintaining their own health and economic stability.”

The bills include:

- Respite CARE Act (S.3231): Supports integrated settings where caregivers receive respite care with other services.
- Family Caregiving Research and Innovation Act (S.3232): Includes family caregiving under ACL’s Innovation Lab.
- FINANCE Act (S. 3233): Supports financial planning grants for family caregivers within the Older Americans Act.
- Convenient Care for Caregivers Act: Pilot projects for Alzheimer’s patients and caregivers to receive services together.
- DINE Act (S.3235): Expands Food is Medicine programs, including produce prescriptions.
- Family Caregiver Peer Support Act (S. 3230): Authorizes \$10 million annually for peer support programs, prioritizing underserved populations.

The momentum behind caregiving policy this November demonstrates that supporting family caregivers is essential to the wellbeing of millions of families across America. GSA remains committed to advancing research, policy, and practice that recognizes and supports the invaluable contributions of family caregivers and the eldercare workforce.



Moughamian



Schulz

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. "Amyloid deposition in the brain is the first step in the process for developing Alzheimer's."

By targeting and removing amyloid, these novel therapies are able to slow the progression of AD. And because amyloid formation is one of the first steps in the pathophysiology of AD, anti-amyloid therapies are most effective when given early in the course of the disease.

"The earlier we intervene, the more likely patients are to stay at the earlier stages. Anti-amyloid therapies can keep people at the mild cognitive impairment stage for longer periods of time," Schutz said. "Time is brain, meaning that the sooner we can get people started on treatment, the more brain function we can preserve."

As the new treatments have entered practice, clinicians have been able to develop pathways and protocols to rapidly identify people most likely to benefit from treatment and provide them with therapy safely and effectively.

"We now know how to find the right people and get effective medications to them early, and we see repeated evidence that these medications are slowing early disease," said Armen J. Moughamian, MD, PhD, a neurologist at Sutter Health in San Francisco, California.

Due to a variety of factors, including misconceptions about the treatment of AD, only a small fraction of people who could benefit are receiving anti-amyloid treatment. The webinar series aims to increase awareness of their

benefits, including overcoming misconceptions about the treatment of AD, address strategies for managing adverse events, and provide practical guidance for how clinicians can manage anti-amyloid therapies in their practices.

[The three webinars in the series are:](#)

- Anti-Amyloid Therapies for Alzheimer's: Practice Considerations and Best Practices
- Charting the Course: Patient Navigation for Anti-Amyloid Alzheimer's Therapies
- Bringing Home Breakthrough Alzheimer's Treatment: Anti-Amyloid Therapy in Rural Communities. Support for the webinar series was provided by Lilly.

GSA KAER Toolkit for Brain Health

The KAER Toolkit supports primary care teams with practical strategies, educational resources, and validated clinical tools to address brain health, detect cognitive impairment, and accurately diagnose dementia.

Explore the KAER Toolkit today!

KAERBrain.org

ESPO Achievements in 2025 Showcase Breadth of Member Benefits



By Kallol Kumar Bhattacharyya, MBBS, MA, PhD
The University of Memphis

I cannot believe that it is December, and now we must look forward to next year's planning. However, it is also time to reflect upon ESPO's achievements in 2025 and make plans for an even better 2026!

ESPO has been busy and productive throughout this year, bringing strong programming and networking opportunities to undergraduate, graduate, and transitional GSA members. As always, the ESPO Community on [GSA Connect](#) is an excellent way to stay up-to-date and connected with members. In 2025, nearly 3,000 members in the ESPO Community contributed over 100 threads. Posts included announcements and discussions about ESPO programs, such as our [Pre-Proposal and Dissertation Writing Groups](#), monthly peer-led writing group (Write-In), webinars, abstract review program, and careers in aging events.

Since January, ESPO has held several virtual and peer-led Write-In Sessions. The ESPO Dissertation and Pre-Proposal Writing Groups have also provided students with the opportunity to network and collaborate with others at the same stage in their writing process. Furthermore, our International Task Force is conducting a peer mentorship program for GSA members to reach other scholars on a global platform.

This ESPO News column in Gerontology News highlights events and involvements of

all student and transitional members of GSA. These events focus on topics specifically relevant to ESPO members, including preparing for employment, searching for mentors, and career development. The task force hosts two webinars each year, so be on the lookout for more programming in 2026.

ESPO also stayed connected and busy during the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston. ESPO held its annual breakfast networking event, the Informal Chat series, the ESPO Presidential Symposium, and more opportunities for ESPO members to network and connect with old and new colleagues from around the world.

Make sure to stay connected with ESPO in 2026! Join the ESPO community on [GSA Connect](#) and follow the GSA social media accounts on [LinkedIn](#), [X/Twitter](#), and [Bluesky](#) for ESPO news or program updates. Additionally, [volunteering with ESPO](#) is a great way to stay engaged throughout the year, as opportunities range from one-day commitments to multiple-year commitments. We are excited to keep connecting in 2026. Please contact us at espo@geron.org with any questions and suggestions.



Physician Leana Wen, MD, MSc, FAAEM, was the Opening Plenary Session's keynote speaker, engaging in a Q&A session with GSA President Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, AGSF, FNAOME, and audience members. GSA also screened tribute videos honoring GSA's highest awardees: [LaDora V. Thompson, PhD, FGSA](#), for the Donald P. Kent Award; [Pinchas Cohen, MD, FGSA](#), for the Robert W. Kleemeier Award; and [Linda M. Chatters, PhD, FGSA, FAASWSW](#), for the James Jackson Outstanding Mentorship Award.



The program included 4,065 presentations across 1,316 symposium presentations, 701 papers, 2,049 posters, and 14 award lectures.



Students, speakers, and HBCU Aging Ambassador Program fellows from HBCUs across the nation came together for two days of engagement and networking at the 2025 HBCU Aging Conference. The conference reflects a growing commitment to advancing aging research and scholarship through excellence, representation, and collaboration, while supporting the next generation of leaders shaping the future of gerontology.



The Exhibit Hall, which welcomed 69 exhibitors, included an emphasis on wellness – including therapy animals, pickleball courts, and a tai chi demonstration.



Thursday's AgeTech: Life Course Innovations & Implications event featured GSA's first AgeTech Product Theater, where startups demonstrated their products and services live onstage in the Exhibit Hall. Six companies shared their innovations and made connections with members.



During the GSA Business Meeting, outgoing president Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, AGSF, FNAOME, (L) handed over the reins to Vice President Tamara Baker, PhD, FGSA, (R) who will take office as president on January 1st.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The call for abstracts and reviewers for the 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting – taking place from November 4 to 7 in National Harbor, Maryland – will open on February 1.

Reflections and Renewals: Educational Highlights from GSA 2025



*By M. Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW,
Arizona State University*

By now, you have hopefully settled down from the excitement of GSA 2025. Seeing familiar faces and making new friends is always so energizing. Congratulations to President Marilyn Gugliucci, a former AGHE president, on her successful year and conference. Beyond connections, the Annual Scientific Meeting allows us to coalesce around emerging themes in a pedagogy and geragogy.

This year, 66 distinct AGHE sessions explored the breadth of our field while providing us with new directions for advancing gerontological education. Below are some themes that stood out at this year's meeting.

Artificial Intelligence and Gerontology

The age of artificial intelligence (AI) is here. Universities increasingly include AI tools in student resources, prompting faculty to swiftly develop responsive policies. While there are, without a doubt, serious ethical and data integrity concerns, gerontology education must adapt. AI has a unique role in assisting in developing new tools and resources and encouraging students to think creatively about future service delivery. We have an opportunity to guide the role of AI in gerontology rather than merely react to the changes it brings.

Age-Friendly Universities and Age Inclusivity in Higher Education

The work of campus partners in increasing the inclusivity of their campuses through innovative programs and intergenerational opportunities was on full display. This work is removing barriers to engagement for all, while

fostering new and exciting collaborations across campuses. Higher education is becoming the leader in a more age-friendly and inclusive world. Collectively, we can draw from one another's expertise and guidance.

The Importance of Community Engagement in Education

Core to the mission of gerontological education is the development of a professional, responsive, competent workforce. The Standards and Guidelines for Gerontology Programs and the forthcoming revised GSA Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education situate community and community engagement as central to students' learning experience. As shared throughout the conference, we must move to a model of year-long engagement and ongoing collaboration with our community partners.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are Fundamental to Gerontology and Geriatrics Education

Multiple sessions highlighted that a commitment to recognizing the heterogeneity, unequal access, and opportunities for inclusion within our aged and aging populations is fundamental to the work of gerontologists. Aging is multifaceted, encompassing diverse pathways shaped by social, cultural, and individual contexts. As educators, we cannot and must not run from this reality and embrace it in our teaching and scholarship. Regardless of form or framing, our collective charge remains to prepare students for the complex, interconnected realities of aging today.

Stay at the Forefront of Aging Research with Alerts

Sign up for [email alerts](#) from Oxford University Press and be the first to know when new articles from your favorite GSA journals are published. Don't miss the discoveries shaping the future of the field.

Calls for Papers

- [How HIV Affects the Hallmarks of Aging: From Bench to Bedside](#) (Biological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, deadline January 2)
- [Thematic Issue on Public Policy, Aging, and Public Health](#) (Public Policy & Aging Report, abstract deadline February 20)
- [Celebrating 10 Years of Innovation in Aging: Innovation and the Innovation Process in Gerontological Research](#) (Innovation in Aging, deadline June 30)
- [Mechanobiology of Aging: Forces Shaping Lifespan](#) (Biological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, deadline June 30)
- [Translational Geroscience](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, rolling submissions)

Special Issues and Webinars

- [A Life Course Approach to Aging and Opioid Use](#) (Innovation in Aging)
- [Homelessness and Aging](#) (The Gerontologist)
- [Bridging Aging and Disability Research](#) (The Gerontologist)
- [The Impact of Climate Change and Air Quality on Human Aging](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences)

- [Hispanic/Latinx Healthy Aging](#) (The Gerontologist)
- [Dementia Policy and Practice](#) (Public Policy & Aging Report)
- [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Gerontology and Geriatrics Education](#) (Gerontology & Geriatrics Education)
- [Technology in Gerontological Education: Role of Gerontology and Geriatrics Education in Workforce Development](#) (Gerontology & Geriatrics Education)

New Articles Added to Cross-Journal Collection

- [Editor's Choice](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence in Aging](#)
- [Caregiving](#)
- [Nutrition](#)
- [National Institute on Aging's 50th anniversary](#)
- [Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

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