

GerontologyNews



Fellowship Offers Reporters Valuable Insight as America Ages

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GSA has received renewed grant support to welcome a 16th class of reporters for the [Journalists in Aging Fellows Program](#). The current funders include [Silver Century Foundation](#), The [John A. Hartford Foundation](#), The [Commonwealth Fund](#), and [National](#)

[Institute for Health Care Management Foundation \(NIHCM\)](#).

Since its founding in 2010, this program has been responsible for [more than 850 news stories](#) produced by [245 alumni](#).

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GSA Internship Brings Stanford Medical Student to DC

In June, GSA welcomed Apoorva Rangan, BA, to its policy team for the 2025 [Hyer/O'Neill Summer Policy Internship](#). She is working with Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs Patricia D'Antonio, BSPHarm, MS, MBA, BCGP, and Director of Policy Jordan Miles, BA, on aging-related policy development and participating in this process at the national level.

Rangan is pursuing a Doctor of Medicine and a master's degree in epidemiology and clinical research at Stanford School of Medicine. She said



Rangan

she aspires to a career working with researchers, community organizations, and older

patients to improve quality and equity in geriatric care.

"Working with the GSA public policy team is an invaluable experience in learning more about the federal policy decisions that structure research and healthcare," Rangan said. "I am so impressed by the coalitions that GSA works with to advance both

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Support the Future of Our Field

GSA welcomes donations to your member section's [Emerging Scholars Funds](#). These contributions help fund travel grants, allowing students to attend GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting.

Stay Connected



From the **GSA President**

GSA Student Chapters Promote Professional Knowledge and Mentorship



*By Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD,
FAGHE, FGSA, ASGF, FNAOME*
mgugliucci@une.edu



How exciting that GSA is ready to expand its student chapters in the United States and globally. Forming a student chapter offers a professional home to all students through post-doctoral trainees as they navigate their career path.

Starting and joining a GSA student chapter offers development of life-long skills to augment professional growth opportunities such as mentoring and mentorship, practical/professional leadership skills, advocacy support, and the expansion of personal/professional networks within their chapter, with chapters worldwide, and within GSA.

In 2020, as one of the inaugural GSA Board of Directors, we voted with the support of GSA executive staff to explore student chapters.

In January 2021, as chair of a new GSA Student Chapter Workgroup, 13 GSA members participated, including three Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) representatives with international, Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education, or student leader experience. Also included were the president and president-elect of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO), the international gerontology academic honor and professional society. The workgroup held monthly meetings and our work, including the GSA Student Chapter Handbook, was reviewed by 16 ESPO members.

This collaborative and inclusive approach resulted in nine pilot GSA student chapters. At my institution, we merged our American Geriatrics Society Student Chapter with the GSA Student Chapter. Some institutions integrated the GSA student chapter with their gerontology club and/or SPO student chapter.

We also welcomed our first international GSA student chapter at the University of Aveiro in Portugal. As we progressed through phase one, the faculty advisors (required to be GSA members) shared feedback, programming ideas, and experiences – including the opportunities to work with other student chapters. For example, Portland State University worked with the University of Aveiro on a joint Zoom event.

Phase two of the initiative (2023–2024) expanded the number of U.S. institutions. The GSA Student Chapter Handbook was edited based on pilot program feedback and GSA then offered complimentary GSA memberships to undergraduate students.

Phase three had 16 U.S.-based and three international chapters. The GSA Student Chapter Community on the GSA Connect online networking platform was launched for faculty advisors and for student officers. We also established a Student Chapter Advisory Workgroup, which is chaired by Keith L. Kleszynski, PhD, of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and includes chapter faculty advisors and a student officer representative.

GSA invites U.S. and international higher education institutions to create a GSA student chapter. They can be interprofessional, interdisciplinary, and invite (or combine) both undergraduate and graduate students. There is a fee of \$200 USD per year and an annual report request. For more information, email membership@geron.org.

What an honor to serve as GSA president as we offer this opportunity to our current and future members.

MemberNews

In Memoriam



Jeremy David Walston, MD, FGSA, who founded the Johns Hopkins Human Aging Project and was a renowned expert in geriatric medicine, passed away on June 10.

At Johns Hopkins University, Walston was the deputy director of the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, the principal investigator of the Older American Independence Center and

the co-director of the Biology of Healthy Aging Program. Throughout his career, he helped to increase understanding of the biological underpinnings of aging-related disease and translate findings to the clinical care of older adults.

Among his contributions, he developed a physical frailty measurement tool, which became the leading tool for hundreds, if not thousands, of studies, and is increasingly being integrated into clinical practices to improve precision in risk assessment and care planning for older adults.

Honors/Appointments/Career Transitions

Lisa C. McGuire, PhD, FGSA, and co-authors received a 2024 Top Ethnogeriatrics Paper Award from the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society for the article "Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diagnoses among American Indian and Alaska Native adults aged ≥ 45 years, Indian Health Service System, 2016–2020." McGuire is the vice president of strategic alliances and practice innovation at GSA.

Daniel S. Sitar, BScPharm, MSc, PhD, FGSA, FCP, FCSPT, was named a 2024 Top Scholar by ScholarGPS, which provides quantitative rankings of all scholars, research institutions, universities, and academic programs worldwide. Sitar's scholarly contributions placed him in the top 0.5% of all scholars worldwide according to the most recent ScholarGPS rankings. He is a professor emeritus in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba.

Members in the News

The New York Times quoted **Mara Mather, PhD, FGSA**, and **Roberto Vicinanza, MD, PhD**, on May 13 in a story titled "[The Surprising Health Benefits of Becoming Pope](#)."

Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, AGSF, FNAOME, was quoted in a May 27 U.S. News & World Report story titled "[Fear of Falls in Older Adults](#)."

Debra Dobbs, PhD, FGSA, was interviewed for a Fox 13 Tampa Bay report titled "[Florida ranked as the worst state in the country for aging in place: Study](#)" on June 4.

On June 8, **Toni Antonucci, PhD, FGSA**, was quoted in a Detroit Free Press story titled "[I refuse to give up: Michigan researchers, health officials grapple with funding cuts](#)."

We welcome member submissions at news@geron.org.



Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on:

[Ernest Gonzales, PhD, MSSW, FGSA](#)

Member Referral Program

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

Elizabeth I Fugate-Whitlock, PhD (who referred new member **Chento Marron**)

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

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 invites you to take just five minutes to make a powerful impact on the future of aging and health research. Make your voice heard: advocate for aging and health research today. We encourage you to call your representative and senators. To make it easy, [GSA developed a simple telephone script](#) to guide your conversation. Call 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your legislator's office. Encourage your colleagues, friends, and neighbors to do the same. GSA's website has additional [advocacy tips and tools](#).

GSA [issued a press release](#) commending Senators Bill Cassidy, MD, and Ben Ray Lujan for introducing the [Treat and Reduce Obesity Act \(TROA\) of 2025](#). This legislation is critical for providing Medicare beneficiaries with access to comprehensive obesity care including anti-obesity medications and intensive behavioral therapy.

GSA [submitted outside witness testimony](#) to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies regarding fiscal year 2026 funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Aging (NIA). The letter highlights the innovative research findings funded by NIH and NIA that have led to increased health spans and longevity for Americans.

GSA attended the annual Global Loneliness Awareness Summit, hosted by the [Foundation for Social Connection Action Network](#) as part of [the 2025 Global Loneliness Awareness Week](#). GSA also attended the [National Alliance on Caregiving's](#) Capitol Hill briefing titled "Strengthening American Families: Program and Policy Solutions to Support Family Caregivers." Speakers highlighted the impacts of potential changes in Medicaid and Medicare on family caregivers, along with the [Act on RAISE Campaign](#), the National Strategy on Caregiving, benefits offered to caregivers in the Older Americans Act, the impact of Alzheimer's and related dementias on caregivers, and [The Credit for Caring Act](#).

Beach Reads: "The Second Fifty: Answers to the 7 Big Questions of Midlife and Beyond"

By Brian Lindberg, MMHS, FGSA
GSA Policy Advisor

I highly recommend a book for your summer reading by GSA member and AARP Senior Vice President of Policy Debra Whitman, PhD, called "The Second Fifty: Answers to the 7

Big Questions of Midlife and Beyond." Deb and I had a great discussion about what drove her to write the book and some of her most interesting findings.



Brian Lindberg: Deb, how have your experiences and roles shaped your first 50? How do you come to this point and decide to write this book?

Debra Whitman: The most important thing is that I grew up with my grandmother. My grandmother had schizophrenia, and my mom was her caregiver for 50 years. My grandmother was super sweet and loving and made the best cinnamon rolls in the world. My job was occasionally to make sure she took her medication on time. The experience taught me how vulnerable people can be. And it taught me how important our programs for older adults are because had my grandmother not had SSI, my parents probably would have spent my college money on her care instead of on getting me my education. Now I've been at AARP for over a decade and I realized there was a lot I didn't know when it came to my own life. Even with all my background in research and policy, I didn't know everything that happens to people as they age.

Brian: So you did what all good GSA members do: turn to the evidence.

Debra: Yes! I will bet most of 1,000 footnotes in the book are either AARP or GSA members. And some of the information is from a survey conducted by AARP and National Geographic in 2022 called the Second Half of Life Study.

Brian: How did your experience with Congress and crafting legislation influence the way you approached this book? Because you're a hands-on policy maker and the book is really about living your life.

Debra: One, I believe change is possible because I've been part of it. Two, I've seen that it happens incrementally, and three, it only happens if people push for it. So, the little subversive message in the book is that everybody needs to be thinking about these questions preferably before midlife. So, I'm hoping that by having people understand this part of their life, we will have more advocates for making it better.

Brian: Advocacy – I love it. Let's turn now to some questions about specific sections of the book. The first two chapters are devoted to



lifespan and healthspan. We devote so much time and research on longevity, yet we still have a society that has a pretty negative view about older adults and aging. What should we do to dispel this negativity?

Debra: I spend a lot of time talking about Becca Levy's work that shows you live 7.5 years longer if you have a positive view of aging. We need to talk about this health benefit and having a better sense of our second half of life as a time to give back and engage. In addition, be mindful of the negative language that you use. Have intergenerational friendships.

Brian: This sounds like some of the work that GSA's National Center to Reframe Aging is doing.

Debra: Yes, absolutely. It's important work, and it's having an impact.

Brian: Let's jump to the third chapter in which you discuss brain health and mental health.

Debra: One of my favorite programs is dementia friendly communities. There are tools and training for the broader environment that can help support people. In fact, last week we launched a program about dementia as part of our Banksafe Initiative to train banks and financial institutions about financial exploitation. Our goal is to get somebody else watching out for you and to disrupt fraudulent transactions before money leaves your account.

Brian: The seven questions covered in the book are: How long will I live? Will I be healthy? Will I lose my memory? How long will I work? Will I have enough money? Where will I live? How will I die? For insights as well as practical guidance, I encourage all to read Deb's book and pay special attention to the last chapter: "A Better Second Fifty."

It has two goals: to educate journalists about issues in aging, better allowing them to spread a new awareness to general-audience and ethnic or other minoritized populations; and to disseminate information about new scientific findings, policy debates, innovations, and evidence-based solutions.

"As the nation adjusts to changes in support for federally funded aging programs and research, the need for up-to-date and accurate news coverage takes on a heightened urgency," said Todd Kluss, GSA's director of communications. "With the support of our funding partners, the journalist fellows are able to build connections to expert sources on aging, to each other, and to their communities."

Kluss co-directs the Journalists in Aging Fellows Program together with veteran age-beat journalist Liz Seegert, who serves as program coordinator of the fellowship's media partner, the Journalists Network on Generations.

"It's always exciting to welcome a new cohort of fellows, and this year it seems especially important to ensure that the many issues impacting aging – including research, policy, and local programs – remain top of mind for journalists," Seegert said. "This fellowship offers journalists expert insight and support so they can delve deeper into key issues that directly impact their communities."

The program's co-founder, Journalists Network on Generations National Coordinator Paul

Kleyman, serves as senior advisor and editorial consultant.

As in previous years, half of the fellows will be selected from general-audience media and half from ethnic or other minority media outlets that serve communities within the U.S. Staff and freelance reporters who are covering or wish to cover issues in aging are eligible to apply.

The program's in-person activities will bring the fellows to GSA's [2025 Annual Scientific Meeting](#), which will take place from November 12 to 15 in Boston, Massachusetts. There the fellows will participate in an exclusive educational workshop, which will showcase demographic trends and research highlights and include discussions with veteran journalists on how to position aging stories in the current media environment.

The fellowship requires reporters to deliver two projects based on current aging research, including a short-initial story and major piece or series in the following months. All applications for the fellowship program will be reviewed by a selection committee of gerontologists and editorial professionals. The criteria will include clarity and originality of proposed in-depth story projects; quality of samples of published or produced work; and high-impact potential of proposals geographically and across different ethnic or racial populations.

GSA welcomes [member donations](#) for the Journalists in Aging Program. These will support year-round engagement opportunities for the fellows, such as networking events at the Annual Scientific Meeting and virtual educational sessions on emerging topics.

The program is structured to build three bridges:

- To connect working reporters with experts in the field;
- To link journalists new to the complex issues of aging with experienced age-beat reporters;
- To channel reporters' enhanced knowledge – fortified by current research – to their communities, in their own languages.

SRPP Section Strives to Empower Next Generation of Scholars; SRPP/ESPO Symposium Planned for Boston



By Mengzhao Yan, MA
University of Southern California

I am honored to serve as one of the ESPO junior leaders in the [Social Research, Policy, and Practice \(SRPP\)](#) Section. I am a PhD candidate at the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California. I was previously the lead of the ESPO International Taskforce.

The [SRPP leadership team](#) and our volunteers strive to provide members with meaningful opportunities for learning, networking, and professional growth. I am excited to highlight several of our recent and upcoming efforts to support emerging scholars and professionals.

In February, we hosted a webinar “Demystifying the SRPP Abstract Submission and Review Process,” where SRPP officers shared insights into the abstract review and selection process, discussed SRPP priority areas, and offered practical tips for submission. Key recommendations included, when possible, to submit more than one abstract, ask a friend or colleague to review your abstracts, and volunteer as a reviewer to get a sense of how to write and gauge abstracts while serving the Society.

On July 18, SRPP will partner with ESPO to present another valuable webinar, “Demystifying Early Career Funding Opportunities.” This session will provide guidance on establishing sustainable funding streams for early career researchers in light of recent and dramatic changes in the funding environment.

Looking ahead to the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, SRPP will host two flash

poster sessions to showcase outstanding student work: “Caring, Engagement, and Well-Being in Communities Around the World” and “Health Care and Services: Policy and Programs Across the Spectrum.” In addition, we plan to bring back the popular SRPP mini-mentoring sessions, following the success at the 2024 meeting.

We are especially pleased to announce the 2025 SRPP/ESPO symposium, “Innovative Translational Research to Improve Home Environment and Activity Performance for Aging in Place.” It will feature a distinguished panel of transdisciplinary researchers, including Professors Laura Gitlin of Drexel University, Wendy Rogers of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Jon Sanford of the Georgia State University, Susan Stark of the Washington University in Saint Louis, and Sarah Szanton of the Johns Hopkins University. They will highlight their innovative research projects, share insights from their multidimensional careers, and offer advice for emerging scholars and professionals.

SRPP is committed to empowering its early career members. We encourage you to apply for the many [student awards](#) offered through SRPP to support travel to the 2025 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston. Additionally, if you would like to support SRPP’s mission, please consider signing up to [become a volunteer](#) and [making a donation](#) to help expand access to our valuable resources.

I would like to thank the SRPP leadership team for reviewing the column, with special appreciation for the helpful suggestions from Dr. Cal Halvorsen.

NewAwards

GSA Honors Outstanding Individuals

Please join us in congratulating our 2025 awardees!

GSA salutes outstanding research, recognizes distinguished leadership in teaching and service, and fosters new ideas through a host of awards. Nominated by their peers, the recipients' achievements serve as milestones in the history and development of gerontology.

The awardees will be recognized at this year's GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, taking place November 12 to 15 in Boston, Massachusetts. Check the final meeting program for all dates, times, and room location assignments for award events.

Society-Wide

Donald P. Kent Award



LaDora V. Thompson, PhD, FGSA, of Boston University

This award is given annually to a GSA member who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society.

Robert W. Kleemeier Award



Pinchas Cohen, MD, FGSA, of University of Southern California

This award is given annually to a GSA member in recognition for outstanding research in the field of gerontology.

James Jackson Outstanding Mentorship Award



Linda M. Chatters, PhD, FGSA, FAASWSW, of University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

This award recognizes outstanding commitment and dedication to mentoring minority researchers in the field of aging.

M. Powell Lawton Award



Joseph E. Gaugler, PhD, FGSA, of the University of Minnesota

This award honors contributions from applied gerontological research that have benefited older people and their care. This award is sponsored by the Polisher Research Institute of Abramson Senior Care.

Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award



Jeremy M. Hamm, PhD, of North Dakota State University

This award acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology. This award is given by GSA in conjunction with the Margaret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation.

Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging



John W. Rowe, MD, FGSA, of Columbia University

This award recognizes instances of practice informed by research and analysis, research that directly improved policy or practice, and distinction in bridging the worlds of research and practice. This award is funded by the New York Community Trust through a generous gift from the Maxwell A. Pollack Fund.

Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award



Ruth M. Tappen, EdD, RN, FAAN, of Florida Atlantic University

This award is presented to a GSA member who has a record of outstanding and sustained contribution to geriatric nursing research.

Krout & Elmore Children's Book Award for Best Portrayal of Aging



Just Like Grandma by Kim Rogers, illustrated by Julie Flett, Published 2023, Heartdrum

This award recognizes realistic portrayals of older adults in picture books for children.

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education

Clark Tibbitts Award



Rona J. Karasik, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, of St. Cloud State University

This award is given to individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of gerontology and/or geriatrics education.

Hiram J. Friedsam Mentorship Award



Sean P. Curran, PhD, FGSA, of University of Southern California

This award recognizes individuals who have contributed to gerontological and/or geriatrics education through excellence in mentorship to students, faculty, and administrators.

Distinguished Faculty Award



Kara Dassel, PhD, FGSA, of University of Utah

This award recognizes persons whose teaching stands out as exemplary, innovative, of impact, or any combination thereof.

Rising Star Early Career Faculty Award



Angie Perone, PhD, JD, MSW, MA, of University of California Berkeley

This award recognizes new faculty whose teaching and/or leadership stands out as impactful and innovative.

Student Leadership Award



Janelle E. Fassi, MS, PhDc, of the University of Massachusetts Boston

This award recognizes a student whose leadership has advanced the goals and mission of the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) as well as the respective goals of his/her AGHE-affiliated institution.

Biological Sciences Section

Nathan Shock New Investigator Award



Marissa Schafer, PhD, of the Mayo Clinic

This award acknowledges outstanding contributions to new knowledge about aging through basic biological research.

Behavioral and Social Sciences Section

Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award



Debra Umberson, PhD, FGSA, of University of Texas at Austin

This award recognizes career contributions that have articulated a novel theoretical or methodological perspective or synthesis that addresses a significant problem in the literature.

Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award



William E. Haley, PhD, FGSA, of University of South Florida

This award is given to an individual who has fostered excellence in, and had a major impact on, the field by virtue of their mentoring, and whose inspiration is sought by students and colleagues.

Mid-Career Innovation Award



Eileen K. Graham, PhD, FGSA, of Northwestern University

This award acknowledges outstanding and innovative contributions of an established mid-career member of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section.

Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award



Antonia Diaz-Valdes, PhD MSW, of Universidad Mayor, Chile

For the article, “Testing the mediating mechanism of alcohol use on the association between retirement and depressive symptoms in the United States using generalized mixed effect models.” Co-authored by Christina Sellers, Jose Tomas Medina, Julian Ponce, Esteban Calvo, Sky Gavis-Hughson

This award recognizes insightful and innovative publications on aging and life course development in the behavioral and social sciences in two categories: Book Category and Article Category.

Health Sciences Section

Joseph T. Freeman Award



Jeff D. Williamson, MD, MHS, FGSA, of Wake Forest University

This award recognizes a prominent clinician in the field of aging, both in research and practice.

Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award



Sajay Arthanat, PhD, OTR/L., ATP, of University of New Hampshire

This award acknowledges outstanding contributions in the field of rehabilitation of aging persons.

Mid-Career Innovation Award



Lisa Cranley, RN, PhD, of University of Toronto

This award acknowledges outstanding contributions of an established mid-career GSA member of the Health Science Section to an innovative and influential area of the field in research and/or practice.

Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section

Barbara J. Berkman Award for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Research, Practice, or Policy in Aging and Health Care



Nancy Morrow-Howell, PhD, FGSA, of Washington University in St. Louis

This award acknowledges many years of significant and substantive career contributions to research, practice and policy in aging and health care services.

Elaine M. Brody Thought Leader Award



Ernest E. Gonzales, PhD, MSSW, FGSA, of New York University

This award acknowledges outstanding contributions in social research, policy, and practice.

Carroll L. Estes Rising Star Award



Roger Wong, PhD, MSW, MPH, of State University of New York (SUNY)

This award acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in social research, policy, and practice.

GSA thanks the following award sponsors:

Polisher Research Institute of Abramson Senior Care (Lawton Award)
The New York Community Trust (Pollack Award)
Margret M. & Paul B. Baltes Foundation (Baltes Award)
Barbara J. Berkman, DSW/PhD, FGSA (Berkman Award)
Timothy L. Kauffman PT, PhD, FAPTA, FGSA (Excellence in Rehabilitation)

Additionally, the following award nominations, along with a variety of travel awards, are open until July 29:

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education

Mildred M. Seltzer Distinguished Service Honor
Part-Time/Adjunct Faculty Honor
Administrative Leadership Honor
Graduate Student Paper Award
James McKenney Student Travel Award
AGHE Student Travel Stipend

Behavioral and Social Sciences Section

Richard Kalish Outstanding Book Award
Student Research Award
Boaz Kahana Student Poster Award
Behavioral and Social Sciences Student Travel Stipend

Biological Sciences Section

George Sacher Award
Biological Sciences Student Travel Stipend

Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization

Interdisciplinary Paper Award
Poster Award
Douglas Holmes Award
Minority Issues in Gerontology Poster Award
Carol A. Schutz Travel Award
TJ McCallum Memorial Student Travel Award

Health Sciences Section

Person-In-Training Award
Research Award
Austin Bloch Award
Health Sciences Student Travel Stipend

Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section

Outstanding Student Poster Award
Social Research, Policy, and Practice Student Travel Stipend

To learn more about GSA awards and for more information about our 2025 summer award nominations, visit www.geron.org/membership/awards.

New Fellows

Distinguished Members Granted Fellow Status

GSA's Board of Directors has approved the following 47 individuals for fellow status within the Society. In addition to being honored during the Fellows, International, and ESPO Reception at the Annual Scientific Meeting, they will be presented with fellow certificates and pins at their respective section recognition events.

Fellow status is peer recognition for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest category of membership. This distinction comes at varying points in a person's career and is given for diverse activities that include research, teaching, administration, public service, practice, and notable participation in the Society.

The Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education

Lisa Cox Hall, PhD, FAGHE, Missouri State University

Behavioral and Social Sciences Section

Alexis A. Bender, PhD, FGSA, Emory University; **Shirley M. Bluethmann, PhD, MPH, FGSA**, Wake Forest University; **Jen-Hao Chen, PhD, FGSA**, National Chengchi University; **Soondool Chung, PhD, FGSA**, Ewha Womans University; **Laura KM Donorfio, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA**, The University of Connecticut; **Richard J. Holden, PhD, FGSA**, Indiana University- Bloomington; **Youjung Lee, LMSW, PhD, FGSA**, Binghamton University; **Pi-Ju (Marian) Liu, PhD, FGSA**, Purdue University; **Atiya Mahmood, PhD, FGSA**, Simon Fraser University; **Joseph A. Mikels, PhD, FGSA**, DePaul University; **Graciela Muniz-Terrera, DrPH, FGSA**, Ohio University; **Jennifer R. Piazza, PhD, FGSA**, California State University, Fullerton; **Nilam Ram, PhD, FGSA**, Stanford University; **Elizabeth Rickenbach, PhD, FGSA**, Saint Anselm College; **Nancy Sin, PhD, FGSA**, The University of British Columbia; **Yeonsu Song, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FGSA**, University of California Los Angeles; **Jeffrey E. Stokes, PhD, FGSA**, University of Massachusetts Boston; **Kimberly A. Van Orden, PhD, FGSA**, University of Rochester

Biological Sciences Section

Scott F. Leiser, PhD, FGSA, University of Michigan

Health Sciences Section

Gregory L. Alexander PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN, FACMI, FAHSI, Columbia University; **Glenna Brewster, PhD, RN, FGSA, FNP-BC, FAAN**, Emory University; **Joan G. Carpenter, PhD, CRNP, ACHPN,**

FGSA, FPCN, University of Maryland; **Allison Lindauer, PhD, APRN, FGSA**, Oregon Health & Science University; **Rebecca A. Lorenz, PhD, FGSA**, The Ohio State University; **Brad D. Manor, PhD, FGSA**, Hebrew SeniorLife; **Karen O. Moss, PhD, RN, CNL, FGSA, FNAP**, The Ohio State University; **Alec D. Pruchnicki, MD, FGSA**, Vista on 5th ALF; **Ana R. Quiñones, PhD, FGSA**, Oregon Health & Science University; **Diana L. Sturdevant, PhD, GCNS-BC, APRN, FGSA**, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences; **Ladda Thiamwong PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN, FNAP**, University of Central Florida

Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section

Julie Bobitt, PhD, FGSA, University of Illinois Chicago; **Vanessa Fabbre, PhD, LCSW, FGSA**, Washington University in St. Louis; **Ernest E. Gonzales, PhD, MSW, FGSA**, New York University; **Jennifer C. Greenfield, PhD, MSW, FGSA**, University of Denver; **Sean N. Halpin, PhD, FGSA**, RTI International; **Cal J. Halvorsen, PhD, MSW, FGSA**, Washington University in St. Louis; **Lin Jiang, PhD, FGSA**, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; **Kyeongmo Kim, PhD, MSW, FGSA**, Virginia Commonwealth University; **Weiyu Mao, PhD, FGSA**, University of Nevada, Reno; **Michael S. Marcus, MSW, FGSA**, University of Maryland Baltimore County; **Hannah R. Marston, PhD, FGSA**, Open University, UK; **Lindsay J. Peterson, PhD, FGSA**, University of South Florida; **Maricruz Rivera-Hernandez, PhD, FGSA**, Brown University; **Jennifer Jurado Severance, PhD, MS, FGSA**, University of North Texas; **Raven H. Weaver, PhD, FGSA**, Washington State University; **Xiaoling Xiang, PhD, MSW, FGSA**, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

To learn more about the nomination process and see a listing of all fellows, visit www.geron.org/membership/fellows.

gerontology and the health and well-being of Americans. As an aspiring academic geriatrician, I feel this will significantly equip me to advocate for evidence-based policy solutions."

Rangan has special interests in geriatrics workforce development, medical-legal collaborations supporting incarcerated older people, and long-term care systems. In 2019, she lived in an intergenerational nursing home in the Netherlands, which was a foundational experience in her journey towards medicine. She graduated from Harvard College magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and human developmental and regenerative biology. In her free time, she loves birding and yoga.

"During this time where there are many opportunities to impact health and aging policy, we welcome Apoorva to GSA," said

D'Antonio. "Her strong academic background and real-world experience make her a great addition to our team. We are looking forward to working with her in Washington, DC, as we continue to advance evidence-informed policy that benefits all of us as we age."

Aimed at emerging scholars, this internship is a professional development opportunity named in memory of Kathryn Hyer, MPP, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE, and Greg O'Neill, PhD, who were policy scholars and long-time GSA members. O'Neill enjoyed a 20-year career at GSA. He joined the GSA staff in 1998 as a research associate and served in multiple roles related to research, policy, and practice. Hyer was a GSA president and board chair and served in many other roles during her 30 years of active membership within the Society. Founded in 2019, the Hyer/O'Neill Summer Policy Internship has now welcomed 14 participants to GSA's headquarters in Washington.

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 Webinars and Virtual Sessions:

- [Leadership Excellence and Advancement of Directors \(LEAD\) Program](#)
- [AGHE Live - It's a Wrap!](#)

Podcast Episodes:

In recognition of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in July, explore GSA podcast episodes that highlight resilience within diverse racial and ethnic communities. Join us in raising awareness and promoting equity in mental health care for older adults and their caregivers.

- [Excellence in Minority Aging: The Championship of Howard University's Soccer Team and the Man Who Took Them There](#) (GSA Interest Group Podcast)
- [Gentrification, Displacement, and Aging in Place in a Black Community with Dr. Raina Croff](#) (The Gerontologist Podcast)
- [Loneliness of First-Generation Dutch Migrants with Ms. Rowan ten Kate](#) (The Gerontologist Podcast)
- [Meeting the Needs of Diverse Caregivers](#) (Momentum Discussions Podcast)

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.

EducationalNews

The Transformative Power of the Teaching Nursing Home Collaborative



By Erin Kitt-Lewis, PhD, RN, CNE
*Penn State Ross and Carol Nese
College of Nursing*



The [Teaching Nursing Home \(TNH\) Collaborative Model](#) creates powerful partnerships between nursing homes and nursing schools, integrating clinical practice, education, and research through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's [Age-Friendly Health Systems \(AFHS\) 4Ms framework](#).

Academic institutions contribute faculty expertise and research capacity, while nursing homes provide invaluable clinical experiences with diverse older adult populations.

This symbiotic relationship elevates staff development, improves resident outcomes, and strengthens workforce competency in gerontological care. Described below are the educational components of TNH.

Interprofessional Education

Students engage with nurses and healthcare professionals through case discussions and team-based planning, developing essential skills in communication, ethics, and person-centered care across disciplines.

Clinical Practicum and Experiential Learning

Nursing students participate in direct patient care under expert supervision, gaining hands-on experience with assessments, medication management, and chronic disease monitoring. This immersion builds critical competencies in managing complex geriatric conditions like dementia, frailty, polypharmacy, and end-of-life care.

Quality Improvement Projects

Students contribute to initiatives addressing pressing challenges such as fall prevention, medication optimization, and delirium intervention. These projects teach data collection and analysis, intervention implementation, and

outcome measurement—building foundations in evidence-based practice and systems thinking.

Gerontology-Focused Curriculum

The AFHS 4Ms framework (what matters, medication, mentation, and mobility), aging physiology, ethical considerations, cultural sensitivity, and health equity principles are integrated throughout didactic and clinical education. Faculty development ensures instructors effectively teach these essential concepts.

Mentorship and Professional Development

The nursing home environment fosters meaningful mentorship relationships between students, faculty, and clinicians. These connections support career growth in gerontological care and combat ageist attitudes by cultivating empathy and respect for older adults.

Research and Scholarship

Collaborative research initiatives engage students and staff in exploring best practices, care delivery innovations, resident satisfaction, and learning outcomes. This scholarly work advances the field while developing critical inquiry skills.

Impact

The TNH model ultimately cultivates a skilled, compassionate workforce prepared to address the complex needs of aging populations in long-term care settings, creating a dynamic learning environment that benefits everyone involved – students, educators, healthcare professionals, and most importantly, nursing home residents.

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New Articles Added to Cross-Journal Collections

- [Caregiving Collection](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Articles](#)

Oxford Academic Launches AI Discovery Assistant

The [Oxford University Press AI Discovery Assistant](#) is a new capability that makes it easier for users to discover content on Oxford Academic. It is an intuitive search of all content on Oxford Academic (including books, journals and other online products), which does not rely on exact matches on words or terms to find relevant results to prompts. Oxford University Press publishes five of GSA's journal titles, including The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, The Gerontologist, Innovation in Aging, and Public Policy & Aging Report.

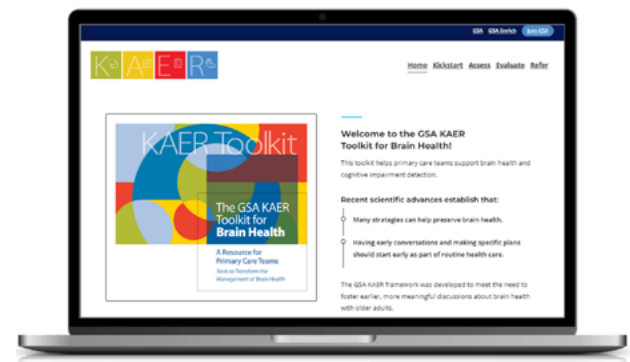
Why Submit to the GSA Portfolio?

GSA is committed to cultivating excellence in interdisciplinary aging research and education to advance innovations in practice and policy. The tradition of excellence in GSA's peer-reviewed scientific journals, established in 1946, continues today.

Alongside being the largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to

research, education, and practice in the field of aging, the GSA portfolio benefits from impactful metrics such as CiteScore (Scopus) and Impact Factor (Journal Citation Reports) as well as membership with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Visit the [GSA journals website](#) to find more information about publishing in the GSA portfolio, and how you can support the Society's vision to ensure we can all enjoy meaningful lives as we age.



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



Showcase Your Scholarship!

We are accepting late breaking abstract submissions for posters and papers from July 11 - August 21, 2025!

This is your opportunity to present compelling research results that were not available during the general abstract submission period.

gsa2025.org/lateabstracts



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