

GerontologyNews



GSA Draws Dozens to DC in Major Aging Advocacy Push

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GSA mobilized 77 of its members and staff to become advocates during the Society's inaugural Capitol Hill Day on April 30. Across a six-hour period, residents of 20 states and the District of Columbia met with the offices of 52 representatives and 33 senators for a total of 85 meetings in the nation's capital.

Their shared message: safeguard federal funding for aging research and programs in the face of major proposed cuts and reorganizations from the new presidential administration.

"This was the first time GSA has assembled so many members for the sole purpose of aging advocacy with our nation's elected leaders," said GSA Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs Patricia M. D'Antonio, BSPHarm, MS, MBA, BCGP. "It's important that everyone in Congress hears directly from their constituents to learn how sweeping budget cuts would harm the districts and states they represent."

Continued on page 06

Join Us for the Inaugural AgeTech Event at GSA 2025



Technology has emerged as one of the most powerful tools to support the field of aging, with the goal of improving the lives of everyone as they age. On Thursday, November 13, GSA is hosting [AgeTech: Life Course Innovations & Implications](#) as part of the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston.

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Visit the GSA Career Center

AgeWork connects top talent with opportunities in aging. Post jobs, find qualified candidates, and showcase your company – visit agework.geron.org to get started.

Stay Connected



From the GSA President

It's GSA's Founder's Day – What Foundation for the Future Will You Provide?



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

GSA celebrates its 80th anniversary this month! On May 18, 1945, five members signed the charter that established our Society, which has grown to more than 6,000 members in over 50 countries. According to the charter, GSA was established in part “to promote the scientific study of aging, in order to advance public health and mental hygiene, the science and art of medicine, and the cure of disease.”

I wonder if the founders could have envisioned the amazing growth and diversification the field of gerontology has enjoyed over the past eight decades. Likewise, could they have imagined the degree to which science and expertise would one day be under assault as we're now witnessing?

As we celebrate Founder's Day this May 18, I ask you to consider how we can individually and collectively channel the spirit of our founders to safeguard the scientific study of aging. A few years back, GSA established our section-specific [Emerging Scholars Funds](#) to provide support for graduate student, postdoc, and trainee involvement in GSA, primarily through the provision of awards for travel and engagement at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Reflect on how much mentorship and connecting with other researchers meant to you when you first began studying aging. In today's environment, this kind of support takes on a new urgency.

Dramatic cuts to federal funding of aging research are impacting scientists across the career course. However, these reductions in funding will have an outsized impact on the next generation of scientists as opportunities to pursue PhDs and postdocs decrease, resulting in diminished interest from up-and-coming

students in entering the field. And the scientific study of aging cannot continue without fostering the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and educators.

The bold leaders who established GSA in 1945 have left a living legacy that has supported the advancement of aging research across four generations of scholars. Recognizing the hurdles ahead for the next generation of researchers, it's important for us all to double down on generativity now. As GSA celebrates Founder's Day, please support the next generation through a contribution to a section-specific [Emerging Scholars Fund](#). If you would like to establish a more enduring legacy, you can support GSA [through planned giving as well](#).

There's an additional way to support graduate students, which I myself have undertaken with inspiration from past GSA President Terrie Fox Wetle. She set up a scholarship at her alma mater, Portland State University, to enable a student with an interest in aging to travel to GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting. My family set up a similar scholarship fund at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in honor of our mother, who preceded me in graduating there. These gifts nurture the careers of future aging experts while benefiting each institution and strengthening the field. I suspect your alma mater would be delighted to work with you to set up an analogous program.

In the spirit of our founders, consider what you yourself are “founding” when you support graduate students and early career professionals – you will be providing a foundation for them to take the science of aging to new heights, and instill in them the spirit of generativity.

Looking forward another 80 years, think of what might yield from the seeds you cultivate today.

MemberNews

In Memoriam



Stephen J. Cutler, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE, who served as GSA president in 1998, passed away on April 2. He began his teaching career at Oberlin College (1969 to 1984) and then came to the University of Vermont in 1984 as a professor of sociology and the Bishop Robert F. Joyce Distinguished University Professor of Gerontology. He also spent time at the University of Bucharest under the Fulbright Scholar Program.

His Major publications include "Middle Start: An Experiment in the Educational Enrichment of Young Adolescents" (co-author, 1977), "Major Social Issues: A Multidisciplinary View" (co-editor, 1978), "Promoting Successful and Productive Aging" (co-editor, 1995), and "Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences" (associate editor, 2006 and 2011).

In addition to serving as GSA president, he was the chair of the Society's Behavioral and Social Sciences Section and editor-in-chief of the Social Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences. He also earned the Clark Tibbitts Award from GSA's Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education.



Robert John Luchi, MD, FGSA, passed away on March 23. He pursued a career in academic medicine and held positions at the University of Pennsylvania, University of Iowa, and, for 38 years, at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). While at Baylor, he served as vice-chair of the Department of Medicine and chief of medicine at Michael E. DeBakey VA Hospital in Houston.

He also established the beginnings of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Geriatrics and Extended Care Service and initiated an interdisciplinary Program in Aging at BCM. He was the founding director of the Huffington Center on Aging and the section of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at BCM. He established the BCM Geriatric Fellowship Program, created the Houston Methodist Geriatric Service Line, and was a founding member of the Houston Gerontological Society. Luchi earned GSA's Joseph T. Freeman Award in 2001.



Member Spotlight

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

Naomi Adjei, PhD, MA

Member Referral Program

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

Amy Rauer, PhD, FGSA (who referred new member **Jordan Westcott, PhD**)

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

Members in the News

- *Time* quoted **James Kirkland, MD, PhD, FGSA**, and **Valter Longo, PhD, FGSA**, in a March 12 story titled "[The Scientific Search for Youth](#)."
- **Deborah Carr, PhD, FGSA**, and **Eunyoung Choi, PhD**, were interviewed for a March 17 NPR story titled "[Heat can age you as much as smoking, a new study finds](#)."
- On March 28, **Cal J. Halvorsen, PhD, MSW**, and **Seoyoun Kim, PhD**, co-authored a piece for The Conversation titled "[Want to stay healthier and fulfilled later in life? Try volunteering](#)."

We welcome member submissions at news@geron.org!

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 continues to track the impacts of the administration's actions on health and aging research policy, including the ongoing court actions regarding [cutting indirect research costs](#) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). [Follow updates on our advocacy webpage](#), which also includes [a form to directly submit to GSA](#) how the actions are impacting your research and work.

GSA has [supported numerous letters](#) with hundreds of national advocacy organizations in support of the health and aging research ecosystem at the National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Aging. This includes [calling for \\$51.3 billion in funding](#) for the NIH in Fiscal Year 2026.

GSA attended the April 22 meeting of the National Advisory Council on Aging, which was originally cancelled in January and then rescheduled after GSA [led a sign on letter](#) with 12 other aging and health organizations urging the committee to meet.

GSA [submitted comments](#) for the April 15 and 16 CDC Advisory Council on Immunization Practices meeting. The committee voted in favor of a recommendation for the use of RSV vaccines in adults aged 50 to 59 years. GSA's comments highlighted the importance of life-saving vaccines, recognizing the reverence with which they should be regarded.

GSA hosted [its latest Policy Profile Podcast](#) with guest Amy York, MA, executive director of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance (EWA), who talked about its policy priorities. GSA serves as co-convenor of the EWA with past GSA Past President Michele Saunders, DMD, MPH, MS, as co-chair.

Members Share Hill Day Impressions and Inspiration

By Brian Lindberg, MMHS, FGSA
GSA Policy Advisor

I am proud to devote my column this month to the dozens of GSA members who traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in GSA's Capitol Hill Day on April 30. Here, I share some of our colleagues' impressions (edited for length).

Paige Denison: I so appreciated GSA providing this opportunity at such a critical time to advocate for science and share how National Institute on Aging-funded grants impact older adults in their daily lives!



Neha Dixit: This was my first time ever attending something like this. There was an evenness with the reps and staff we met with regardless of their side of the aisle. GSA prepared us well with talking points that we could then personalize including the “ask” at the end.

Ernest Gonzales: It occurred to me that nearly every university has a public relations/legislative office, entities we should include next time. As one staff member said: we must stand as a unified block. I learned more than 10 years ago in your Policy Leadership Institute and was reminded today that it’s about building relationships; ensuring the research doesn’t stay in journals but is conveyed to policymakers and the public.

Marilyn Gugliucci: I had the opportunity to attend part of the Appropriations Committee hearing that included key scientists and personal testimony from a mother with a six-year-old who had his disease cured because of science. I spent quite a bit of time with Semra, a physician from Istanbul who joined GSA just to come and be part of this event – she knows that National Institutes of Health research cuts will affect her research in Istanbul.

Kelley Jackson: This was an amazing experience to meet with the decision-makers and their staff to offer education about the impact the National Institutes of Health has on many people, institutions, and organizations. It was an eye-opening experience for me to be swept up in a palpable energy that will drive my mission to continue these conversations beyond today. I thank GSA and the team for organizing and preparing us to present our purpose and provide objective data to back up our discussions.

Corinna Loeckenhoff: I had never considered visiting “The Hill” for advocacy purposes before, but with proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, the thriving biomedical research infrastructure in the U.S. is at stake. The complex support system that enables such research cannot be turned on or off like a light switch. I’m particularly concerned about our young scientists who can’t find internships

and gap-year positions to hone their skills. The staff were responsive to personal stories (e.g., specific grants that were frozen or cut, difficulties attracting students).

Brett Adam Messman: I was pleasantly surprised with how the meetings went. The combination of sharing the GSA talking points mixed with our stories helped convey a powerful message that resonated with the staffers. My takeaway is that the representatives and their teams are open to hearing what we have to say and that this is a first step in opening the door to more discussions.

Adam T. Perzynski: It was truly a privilege to join my GSA colleagues in meeting with our representatives and senators. This was my first time on Capitol Hill. Sharing positive stories of the good work being done by gerontologists was worth every minute. I was especially glad to be able answer the questions that our legislators had about the funding process and value of the National Institute on Aging.

Cary Sweeney: I felt like I needed to do something in these polarizing times and jumped at the opportunity to go with the Society to the Hill. The staffers were supportive, though they all admitted that it was a really tough time for promoting science. The talking points from GSA were incredibly helpful. I filled in with some personal points about my work.

Well, there you have an inspirational sampling of our colleagues’ experiences on the Hill educating and advocating for the National Institute on Aging and older adults around the world that benefit from our members’ work. I hope these testimonials have inspired you to speak up and advocate on behalf of science and the field of aging. [GSA's website has resources](#) to help you be successful.

As most of the participants had not had previous Capitol Hill experience, GSA conducted an orientation session on April 29 to equip members with the resources they needed to be effective advocates.

AARP Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer and Executive Vice President at Nancy LeaMond, MA, was the keynote speaker. During a conversation with D'Antonio, she shared insights based on her many years of experience in conducting visits to offices on Capitol Hill.

GSA Director of Policy Jordan Miles, BS, then conducted a panel discussion titled "The Power of Coalitions," featuring Abby Bownas from the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition, Kristine Blackwood, JD, from the American Geriatrics Society, and Amy York, MA, from the Eldercare Workforce Alliance. They provided an overview about what positive changes can result from helping members of Congress make informed decisions when making legislation and budget appropriations.

D'Antonio and Miles also spoke to the audience about what to expect when meeting with the staff of congressional offices, and provided supporting documents that could also be distributed at the conclusion of the meetings.

GSA members were encouraged to advocate for the health and aging research ecosystem at the National Institutes of Health, including the

National Institute on Aging; and advocating for \$51.3 billion to be appropriated for the National Institutes of Health in FY 2026.

When the GSA contingent arrived on Capitol Hill on April 30, members were assigned to teams of varying sizes so that no one would be on their own, and at that least one individual on the team would be a constituent of any office they were scheduled to visit.

The Policy News section on page 5 of this issue of *Gerontology News* includes quotes from many members who participated in Capitol Hill Day.

"While GSA members have always counted on the Society to advocate on their behalf here in Washington, this program armed our them with the tools needed to conduct their own advocacy activities directly with their elected representatives," said GSA CEO James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH, ScD (Hon). "Importantly, it also provided members with a new sense of empowerment that will be essential as we collectively navigate the many policy changes impacting scientific research funding."

For members looking to take additional action, GSA has an [Advocacy Toolkit](#) with guidance on writing letters to your members of Congress and how to conduct successful Capitol Hill visits.



(From left to right): Joann Montepare, Edward Miller, Lewis Lipsitz, Elaine Eliopoulos, Michael Lepore, and Kristin Lees Haggerty outside the office of Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.



(From left to right): Past GSA President James Nelson and Erik Marchant outside the office of Texas Representative Michael Cloud.

See page 4

for quotes from Capitol Hill Day participants about their experiences

Health Sciences Section Showcases Recent Webinars, Previews Annual Scientific Meeting Sessions



By Mo-Kyung Sin, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN
Seattle University College of Nursing

The Health Sciences (HS) Section is focusing on two objectives in 2025: 1) engage section members and keep them informed about section-related activities, and 2) implement at least one product, networking event, or service each quarter.

To engage section members and keep them informed about section-related activities, the HS Section has actively promoted awards and fellows nominations as well as any webinar sessions via GSA Connect.

Spring awards and fellows decisioning will be announced by the end of May. Online voting for Board of Directors and vice chair-elect positions will be open from June to July.

To implement at least one product, networking event, or service each quarter, the HS Section hosted a webinar on "[Health Sciences Award Recipients Spotlight](#)" on February 27. Three previous awardees (Dr. Ali Ahmed, 2024 Joseph T. Freeman Award; Dr. Megan Husing-Scheetz, 2024 Mid-career Innovation Award; Dr. Brad Manor, 2023 Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award) shared pearls of wisdom for future candidates.

To promote self-nomination for section officers, the HS Section implemented a webinar on "[Demystifying Section Leadership](#)" on February 25. Nominations for HS Section vice chair were completed in April. In addition, a webinar session on "[AI use in education and practice](#)" was held on April 8 in collaboration with GSA's Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education. Drs. Huai Y.



By Kate Perepezko, PhD, MSPH
Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University

Cheng, Kimberly Acquaviva, and Laura Donorfio were the invited speakers. A virtual meet and greet session for all HS Section volunteers is planned in October.

For the Annual Scientific Meeting, the HS Section will soon complete Annual Scientific Meeting abstract decisioning and sessioning, and then host its presidential symposium and recognition event on November 14. For the presidential symposium, Drs. George Demiris, Niteesh Choudhry, and Peter Adadir have submitted a session titled "National Institute of Aging P30 Results in AI and Technology for Healthy Aging and Persons with ADRD," where they plan to present on the progress of their funded pilot projects in AI and technology for ADRD and healthy aging. The HS Section ESPO junior co-leaders have submitted a symposium titled "A Multidimensional View of Aging: Utilizing Innovative Approaches in Gerontology," in which they plan to highlight the work of five early career scientists who utilize advanced methodological and analytical approaches to explore key topics in gerontology. We hope you will join us for these symposia.

Prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting, the HS Section ESPO co-leads will also host a sneak peak webinar, which will provide students and early career investigators with tips about how to make the most of their GSA ASM experience. This sneak peak is also a great opportunity for individuals who are presenting at the conference to promote their work and ask questions.



GERONTOLOGICAL
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FOUNDER'S DAY

MAY 15, 2025

Our founders set out to advance
aging science and better the
lives of older adults.

*Support the next generation of
experts in the field of aging!*



Give Today!



William de Berniere MacNider

GSA President, 1945



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.

**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.*

New Webinars and Virtual Sessions:

- [Practical Approaches for Advocating for Health and Aging Research on Capitol Hill](#)
- [AI in the College Classroom & Practice](#)
- [Where Do I Go From Here? Charting Your Post-Graduate Path in Health Care and Social Services](#)

New Podcasts:

- [Caring for Tomorrow: Sustaining a Healthy Eldercare Workforce](#) (GSA on Aging: Policy Profile)

Looking Ahead to GSA 2025 and AGHE's Teaching Institute: Teaching Aging in the Age of AI



*By Laura K.M. Donorfio, PhD, FAGHE
University of Connecticut*

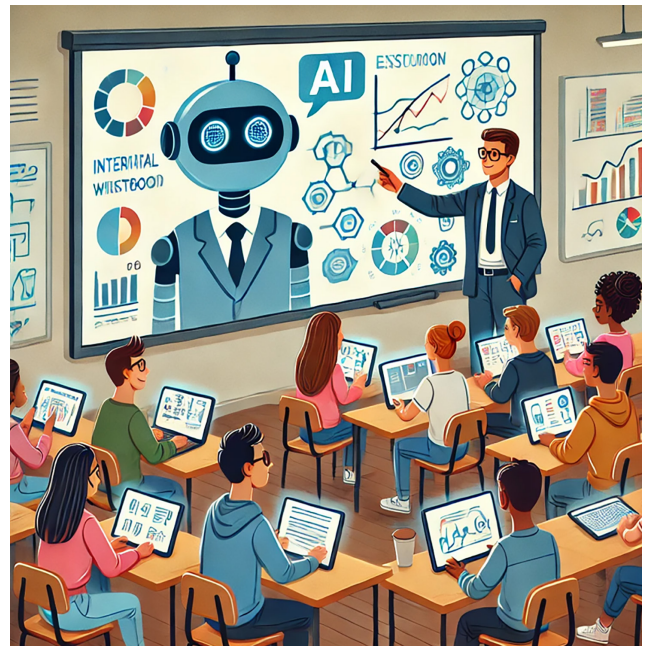
GSA's Academy of Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) recently hosted a webinar, "[AI in the College Classroom and Practice](#)," moderated by AGHE Chair Christine Fruhauf and Mo-Kyung Sin. Featured panelists Kimberly Acquaviva, Huai Yong Cheng, and Laura Donorfio shared where they are in their personal journey using artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom and how teachers and students can benefit from using AI in the classroom and in their research.

The webinar was a continuation of discussion on the role of AI in higher education, including previous events at the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting, and even pieces in this newsletter column. Building on this momentum, we are excited to share with you that the AGHE's 14th Annual Teaching Institute at the [2025 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting](#) in Boston will focus on teaching aging in the age of AI.

Educators in all fields are experiencing the impact of generative AI (Think, ChatGPT, CoPilot, etc.) and how it is transforming teaching pedagogy and student learning. Therefore, it is critically important we consider how we can incorporate course policies that promote responsible and ethical AI use. The Teaching Institute will address the transformative impact of AI on gerontological education, focusing on integrating AI tools into gerontology-related courses and curricula. In the Teaching Institute, we will introduce AI and various generative AI models, demonstrating how AI can be leveraged as a teaching tool and ally.

Participants can expect to explore practical applications of AI in developing teaching strategies, student assignments, classroom activities, and research projects. The Teaching Institute includes an expert panel presentation, interactive small group activities, and large group discussions to foster interprofessional collaboration. Participants from across GSA member groups are highly encouraged to attend to foster interprofessional collaboration and interdisciplinary application.

We hope you can join us for practical, classroom-level strategies for integrating AI tools into gerontology education to enhance our teaching and students' learning.



This dynamic and timely program brings together leaders, researchers, industry innovators, and practitioners to explore the intersection of aging and technology. Whether you're passionate about digital health, AI-powered caregiving, home-based solutions, or accessibility in tech adoption, GSA's day-long AgeTech event is designed for you.

From remote patient monitoring and smart home integration to wearable sensors and cognitive support tools, age tech is not just about exploring the latest technology – it's about exploring the ways to bring these advancements to people in ways that help improve their well-being and ability to live GSA's mission, meaningful lives as we age.

And, knowing that our members' experience with age tech runs a wide spectrum, from those who are eager to learn more about AI and tech implications on aging research, to those who have successfully turned research into commercially viable products, and everything in between. By bringing innovators together with researchers and members curious about how tech impacts their careers,

What to Expect

This special event will feature a lineup of presentations, panels, and networking sessions. Key events include:

- **Sessions:** Join a day of sessions focused on

the cycle, from idea to commercial product, of age tech. While exploring the latest innovations, presenters will also share advice for success for those looking to bring their own ideas to life.

- **Speed Networking Reception:** Thursday's session will close with a speed-networking event, allowing researchers, innovators, and experts in the field to convene and bounce ideas off of each other.
- **Product Theater:** GSA will host our first-ever Product Theater during the event, spotlighting start-ups and products in age tech. GSA members are encouraged to sign up to share their products and innovations, and to share the sign-up form with any age tech innovators you may know.

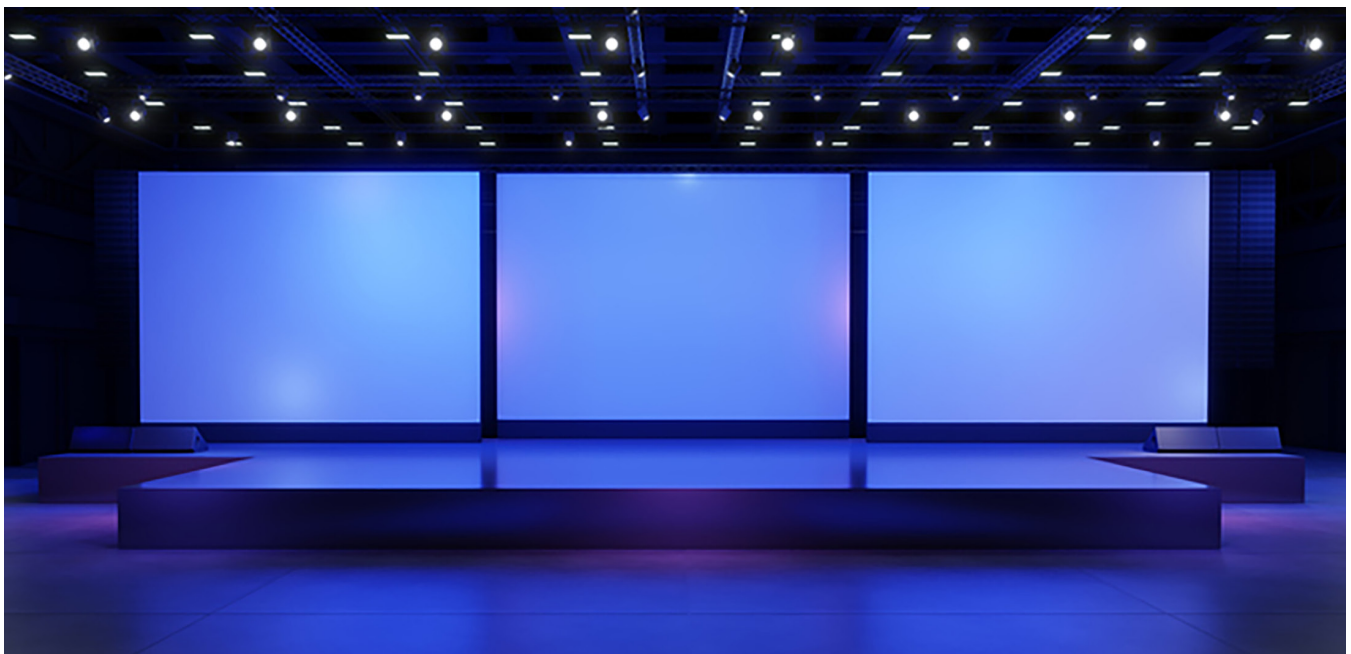
Be Part of the Movement

Join us in Boston to engage, learn, and help shape a future where age tech empowers all people to thrive as they age. Attendance at the AgeTech: Life Course Innovations & Implications event is included in your GSA 2025 registration.

GSA is also inviting organizations and industry to consider sponsoring the event. You can find out more about becoming a marquee Platinum Sponsor of the event, sponsoring our Product Theater or signing up for a demo slot.

To learn more and register, visit:

www.gsa2025.org/agetech



JournalNews

Calls for Papers

- [Decision Neuroscience and Aging](#) (Psychological Sciences section of *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, deadline August 15)
- [Mechanobiology of Aging: Forces Shaping Lifespan](#) (Biological Sciences section of *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, deadline September 1)
- [Osteosarcopenia and Intrinsic Capacity](#) (Medical Sciences section of *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, deadline October 1)
- [Biomarkers of Aging](#) (Medical Sciences section of *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, deadline November 1)
- [Translational Geroscience](#) (*The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, rolling submissions)

Thank You to All 2024 Journal Reviewers

Scientific progress depends on the generosity of reviewers who assist editors by sharing their time and expertise in the peer review process. The editors-in-chief and editors wish to thank all individuals for their assistance in reviewing

manuscripts during 2024.

- *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*
 - [Biological Sciences section](#)
 - [Medical Sciences section](#)
- *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*
 - [Psychological Sciences section](#)
 - [Social Sciences section](#)
- [Innovation in Aging](#)
- [The Gerontologist](#)
- *Gerontology & Geriatrics Education*

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[It is a great time to become a peer reviewer for any of the GSA journals.](#) Your role as a peer reviewer is not just essential, it's invaluable in maintaining research quality. GSA deeply appreciates the thousands of reviewers who volunteer their time and expertise to its journals.

- [The Gerontologist](#)
- [Innovation in Aging](#)
- *The Journals of Gerontology Series A: [Biological Sciences](#) and [Medical Sciences](#)*
- *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: [Psychological Sciences](#) and [Social Sciences](#)*
- [Gerontology & Geriatrics Education](#): Contact Darren Liu, DrPH, FGSA, at darren.liu@outlook.com.

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