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## GSA Resources Will Improve Care and Outcomes for People Living with Dementia

GSA has released two new brain health resources aimed at educating healthcare providers, caregivers, and families. A new video series on agitation in Alzheimer's dementia (AAD) is designed to help viewers understand and manage this

difficult condition, while the report "Understanding Breakthroughs in Brain Health: Top 10 Articles of 2024" summarizes key dementia research for busy primary care providers (PCPs).

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## GSA Welcomes Capitol Hill Policy Veteran as Visiting Scholar

Sarah Khasawinah, PhD, MHS, has joined GSA as part of its [Visiting Scholar and Executive Program](#). This opportunity is open to members able to make a full- or part-time commitment to conduct work on GSA projects related to their area of expertise.

In this role, Khasawinah will contribute to GSA's work in the policy arena. She brings extensive experience in health and aging policy, including a decade-long role in crafting bipartisan aging policies as a key staff member on the U.S.



Sarah Khasawinah

Senate Special Committee on Aging.

"Sarah has a proven track record in bipartisan legislative strategy, regulatory frameworks, federal budget processes, and oversight

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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

## Interest Groups: Are You Missing Out on GSA's Secret Ingredient?



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

GSA's membership has now swelled to more than 6,000 individuals in 64 countries, hailing from 26 different disciplines. In a large professional organization, with experts from so many different academic backgrounds, where can you go to make interpersonal connections? The answer is a gem hiding in plain sight: [GSA interest groups](#).

More than 2,500 GSA members now affiliate with at least one interest group, which are organized by topic. In testimonials, we hear from members that this is where they go to find their "people" – that is, a year-round place where they connect with peers sharing similar research interests, for networking, sharing resources and information, and collaborating on research projects and presentations.

And they have grown in popularity over the last five years. Now armed with tools like Zoom and Teams, many interest groups meet multiple times a year in addition to in-person gatherings at the Annual Scientific Meeting, supplemented with ongoing discussions taking place on GSA

Connect. And the [number of groups we offer](#) has increased from 52 to 66 in the same timeframe.

Joining a group is as simple as a few clicks to update your member profile on GSA's website. Especially if you're new to GSA, the world becomes a lot smaller if you start making connections through an interest group. In today's tumultuous scientific environment, it's a great time to make new friends in the field.

### Interest Groups by the Numbers

**66**  
total

**14**  
added within last  
five years

**40%**  
of members belong  
to at least one

**34%**  
of members belong  
to multiple

### How to Join an Interest Group

- 1 Log in at [www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org)
- 2 Hover over "Membership" on the top tool bar and select "Member Center"
- 3 Click on "Update Profile" (located on the righthand side under "Quick Links")
- 4 Scroll down to "Interest Group Preferences"; check all the interest groups you want to join, then scroll down and click "Update Profile"

### Testimonial

*"As an interdisciplinary organization, GSA provides countless opportunities for meaningful conversation and collaboration. While this breadth can initially feel overwhelming, I found a valuable starting point in the interest groups. These groups helped me find my place within GSA. Early in my career as an emerging scholar, they offered mentorship from senior researchers and academics. Now, 26 years later, they've also given me the chance to grow as a leader, including the privilege of serving as co-convenor for two different groups."*

**Rajeon P. Moone, PhD, FGSA**  
Co-convenor, Assisted Living Interest Group

# MemberNews

## In Memoriam



**Jiayun Xu  
PhD, RN,**

Jiayun passed away on August 2 at age 37. She began her faculty career as an assistant professor in nursing at Purdue University, where she mentored many nursing students. In 2022, she joined the Parkinson's Disease

and Movement Disorders Team at Oregon Health & Science University.

A 2017 Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) research scholar, Xu contributed extensively to the advancement of hospice and palliative nursing. She served on HPNA's Research Advisory Committee, helped develop the 2019-2022 HPNA Research Agenda, and shared her expertise on the HPNA Podcast series.

Her research, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the American Nurses Foundation, focused on improving or maintaining quality of life for patients and families affected by chronic illnesses, particularly Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, through social-behavioral interventions.

## Honors/Appointments/Career Transitions

- **Scott Beach, PhD, FGSA**, will retire from the University of Pittsburgh on September 30. In 1999, Beach was named director of the Survey Research Program at the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR). In addition to this role, he served as UCSUR associate director between 2010 and 2016, and was named interim UCSUR director in 2016, serving in this capacity until 2025. In addition to his work in survey methodology and research design, Beach has published in areas such as aging and caregiver stress, elder abuse, and technology and aging.
- **Debra Dobbs, PhD, FGSA**, has been named director of the School of Aging Studies at the University of South Florida, where she is also academic director of the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care and End-of-Life Studies. Her

research interests include palliative, hospice and end-of-life care, and palliative care education in assisted living with a specific focus on providers of persons living with dementia.

- **Kimberly Bergen-Jackson, PhD, RN-GERO, LNHA, FAAN** (University of Iowa), **Sherry A. Greenberg, PhD, RN, GNP-BC, FGSA, FNAP, AGSF, FAANP, FAAN** (Hunter College, The City University of New York), **Lin "Helen" Jiang, PhD, MSSc, FGSA** (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), **Stella T. Lartey, PhD, MPH, MA** (Clemson University), **Anne Bradley Mitchell, PhD, MPH, ANP-BC, FGSA** (Thomas Jefferson University), and **Seeun Park, PhD** (University of Washington), have been named to the 2025 2026 class of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program.

### Member Referral Program

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

**Caitlyn E. Coyle, PhD** (who referred new member **Katherine Richman, PhD, MS, RN**)

To learn how you can become eligible, visit: [www.geron.org/referral](http://www.geron.org/referral).

We welcome member submissions at [news@geron.org](mailto:news@geron.org).



### Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: [Ross Andel, PhD, FGSA](#)

## Recent Policy Actions



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



**Thomas Jordan Miles III, BA**  
Director of Policy

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

[GSA has developed a telephone script](#) to empower you to reach out directly to your member of Congress to discuss the importance of funding the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Aging. We encourage you to share with colleagues and make the call to advocate for research and work in your communities. Dial 202-224-3121 and ask for your legislator's office. [GSA's website includes more advocacy tips.](#)

[GSA hosted a webinar](#) that provides a comprehensive overview of the federal budget process, the current activities around the fiscal year 2026 budget, and how budget rescissions and impoundments have impacted the process.

[GSA released a new Policy Profile Podcast](#) that explores the evolving federal policy and research landscape addressing social isolation and loneliness.

## Boston Brings New Round of Timely Policy Series Offerings

**By Brian Lindberg, MMHS, FGSA**  
GSA Policy Advisor

I hope you are heading to Boston, home of the "Cradle of Liberty," for GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting this November. It's one of our most historic cities and now is certainly a time to be contemplating the value and fragility of our liberties. Please plan to attend some of our Policy Series sessions.

### Wednesday, November 12

**ESPO and Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Symposium: Innovative Translational Research to Improve Home Environment and Activity Performance for Aging in Place**

12 to 1:30 p.m., Boston Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Mengzhao Yan

Speakers Taylor Jansen, Sarah Szanton, Wendy Rogers, Susan Stark, Laura Gitlin, and Jon Sanford will share insights on innovative research projects that translate science and technologies into practical applications.

### Current Research, Opportunities, and Recommendations for Diverse Health and Aging

2 to 3:30 p.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Angela Perrone

This session will feature representatives from GSA's six membership sections, the Minority Issues in Aging Advisory Panel, and the Humanities, Arts, and Culture in Gerontology Advisory Panel.

### Thursday, November 13

**Health and Aging Policy Fellows: Bringing Together Aging and Policy**





8 to 9:30 a.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Maureen Henry

Presentations will describe how policy can be used to solve discrete structural challenges that affect older people, processes of collecting and analyzing data to create a national plan for aging, and aspects of the appropriations process in Congress.

### **Impacts and Opportunities: Research and Policy Priorities at NIH**

10 to 11:30 a.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Co-Chair: Patricia D'Antonio

This session will take a deep dive into the extremely challenging period faced by the National Institutes of Health this year and how GSA members and the research community have responded.

### **Aging and Health Policy Update: A View from Washington**

12 to 1:30 p.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Brian W. Lindberg

This session brings together Washington policy advocates Andrew MacPherson, Amy Gotwals, Jen Burdick, and Patricia D'Antonio.

### **From Research to Action: Advancing Social Connection and Engagement for Older Adults**

4:30 to 6 p.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Jillian Racoosin Kornmeier

Speakers Meredith Hanley, Jillian Racoosin Kornmeier, and Amy R. Eisenstein will examine strategies, practices, and legislation that promote social engagement.

## **Friday, November 14**

### **Caregiving in the U.S. 2025: Emerging Themes and Actionable Policy and Practice Solutions**

8 to 9:30 a.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Selena Caldera

Presenters Rita Choula, Selena Caldera, Juliana Cuzzo, Terri Guengerich, Yadira Montoya,

and Alessandra Raimondi will discuss the recent Caregiving in the U.S. Survey.

### **GSA Congressional Update**

12 to 1:30 p.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Brian W. Lindberg

This session provides Capitol Hill staff perspectives on health and aging legislation.

### **Fifty Plus: Elder Abuse – Past, Present and Future**

4:30 to 6 p.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 301

Chair: Bridget L. Penhale

This interactive symposium includes Pamela Teaster, Laura Mosqueda, Georgia J. Anetzberger, Bob Blancato, and Erica Costello.

## **Saturday, November 15**

### **Presidential Symposium: Looking Over the Horizon: States as the Laboratory for Policy Innovations**

8 to 9:45 a.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 312

Chair: Howard B. Degenholtz

Speakers include Joseph E. Gaugler, Rita Choula, and Alicia Munell.

### **Dementia Care Policy and Practice: Early Detection, Living Alone, and Nonpharmacological Interventions**

10 to 11:30 a.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Michael Lepore

This symposium will review national, state, and local dementia policies. Speakers include Tara McMullen, Ian N. Kremer, Lauren Stratton, Heather L. Menne, Kalisha Bonds Johnson, and Anna H. Chodos.

### **Three Pilot Collaborations to Empower Nursing Home Residents and Staff: Taking Action with the Moving Forward Coalition**

3:30 to 5 p.m., Hynes Convention Center Room 207

Chair: Alice Bonner

Presenters include Anna Fisher, Mairead Painter, Robyn L. Stone, and Laci Cornelison.

methods to deliver measurable outcomes,” said GSA CEO James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH. “We welcome her and her expertise as we advance our commitment to securing robust federal funding for aging research and improving the lives of all of us as we age.”

Most recently, Khasawinah was senior advisor for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging for Chairman Rick Scott and was previously deputy staff director for Chairman Susan Collins, Ranking Member Tim Scott, and Ranking Member Mike Braun. She led the 2020 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) as well as the Senate-passed 2024 OAA reauthorization, and drove policy advancements in mental health, caregiving, biomedical research, substance use, drug pricing, and health care price transparency.

“I have long admired GSA’s leadership at the intersection of research, policy, and practice in service of older adults. I am delighted and honored to join as a scholar, and work with staff and members to cement the field of aging as an uncontested bipartisan national priority,” Khasawinah said. “GSA has been at the table for every critical conversation in aging policy. In the Senate, I especially enjoyed working with GSA staff and members on developing groundbreaking policies to address brain health, and in my new role, I look forward to accelerating a new era in cognitive health for years to come.”

Khasawinah was instrumental in leading the

creation, negotiation, and passage of the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act – a landmark law establishing a transformative public health framework for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

At the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, she designed and planned the first federal hearing addressing the virus’s disproportionate toll on older adults. Subsequently, Khasawinah played a pivotal role in shaping provisions within the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

She also helped to restore and expand the U.S. Senate Fraud Hotline, leading to a major federal investigation of Medicare fraud.

Khasawinah earned her PhD in mental health from Johns Hopkins University, where she focused on brain health and aging. She also received an MHS in biostatistics, concentrating on neuroimaging.

She joins the company of GSA’s five other visiting scholars and executives: Robin A. Barr, DPhil, Richard Browdie, MBA, FGSA, Kevin Crain, Terri Harvath, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, and Patricia W. Slattum, PhD. Previous visiting scholars include Katie Maslow, MSW, FGSA, and Ning Jackie Zhang, PhD, FGSA.

For further information on becoming involved in the program, visit [geron.org/vse](https://geron.org/vse).

## Goals

The Visiting Scholar and Executive Program is designed to provide members with the opportunity to:



### Goal 1

Advance GSA initiatives related to their professional interests.



### Goal 2

Combine their research projects with GSA’s programmatic needs.



### Goal 3

View the aging research enterprise through the lens of the larger Society.



### Goal 4

Broaden their professional network.

## The Time to Sign Up for ESPO Service Opportunities Draws Near



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

Participating in service with ESPO is an excellent opportunity to connect with ESPO and GSA members, while further establishing your leadership skills as a lead or co-lead in several workgroups, contributing to GSA programming, networking across disciplines, gaining visibility within GSA, and adding it to your CV.

The call for service opportunities will open in mid-October. Keep an eye out for GSA communications for the open roles and responsibilities. You need to fill out a brief application form; if selected, you will be notified of your appointment in mid-December.

Each group has a range of membership roles. Group leads and co-leads are appointed for two-year terms. The co-lead learns the role in their first year, then transitions to the lead role in their second year. Non-lead members of each group are appointed for one-year terms. Group members may join more than one task force. The time commitment varies by role and the time of year.

### **Annual Scientific Meeting Working Group**

Help develop the ESPO Presidential Symposium for the Annual Scientific Meetings; also may assist with organizing ESPO Informal Chats and other programming.

### **Awards Review Panel**

Promote awards, review, and select awardees.

### **Communications Taskforce**

Run three subgroups: The Newsletter Group manages the ESPO New column, collects

columns from ESPO task forces, and disseminates ESPO news; 2) The E-Comm Group promotes ESPO activities on social media and manages posting on the GSA Connects networking platform; and the Member Outreach Group promotes ESPO to new and lapsed members.

### **Dissertation Writing Group/Pre-Proposal Writing Group Taskforce**

Manage and implement writing groups, communicate with participants to disperse materials and surveys.

### **International Taskforce**

Communicate with new international ESPO members, support international member activities at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

### **Webinar Taskforce**

Develop and run two ESPO webinars, identify speakers, and promote webinars to the ESPO/GSA communities.

### **Write-In Taskforce**

Promote and host monthly write-in sessions.

### **Membership Section Leadership**

If you are looking to become more engaged with your primary section, becoming an ESPO junior representative for a section is an ideal choice. Junior representatives work with their primary section's officers on several activities and assist in developing a designated ESPO symposium for their section.

## New Video Series Illustrates Agitation in Alzheimer's Dementia



A new GSA video series, developed with support from Otsuka and Lundbeck, tackles the widespread challenge of agitation in Alzheimer's dementia (AAD), a common and distressing behavioral symptom. AAD can significantly reduce an individual's quality of life and create emotional strain for caregivers.

The series features [eight video vignettes illustrating AAD symptoms](#), including:

- Asking repeated questions
- Pacing and restlessness
- Verbal aggression
- Resistance to assistance

Each vignette is presented in a "poorly managed" and "well-managed" pairing, demonstrating that effective treatment goes beyond simply reducing symptoms to improving function and quality of life for the patient and their family.

"Treating AAD is not only about reducing troubling behavior; it's about how that reduction leads to better functioning and improved quality of life for the person with AAD and their family," said GSA Director of Strategic Alliances Jen Pettis.

The videos are intended to provide a vital visual resource for communities of interest who may not fully understand what agitation looks like. [An infographic](#) developed in conjunction with the videos summarizes key aspects of detecting and treating AAD.

## Primary Care Providers Get a Research Update



["Understanding Breakthroughs in Brain Health: Top 10 Articles of 2024"](#) is the first in a line of "Top 10" reports to be produced under GSA's Insights and Implications in Gerontology publication series. This inaugural issue provides busy PCPs with a compilation of research summaries relevant to their practice.

The articles, selected by an expert advisory board, cover a range of timely topics, including:

- Early diagnosis of dementia and the use of biomarkers
- Non-biased cognitive assessment tools
- Strategies for dementia prevention and care
- Approaches for supporting caregivers

According to advisory board member Soo Borson, MD, the goal is to help PCPs – who diagnose more than 85% of Medicare beneficiaries with dementia – apply the latest findings to improve patient care.

"With new tools becoming available that can facilitate early diagnosis and interventions for dementia, PCPs have opportunities to improve care trajectories for their patients," said Borson.

Support for this report was provided by Lilly.

These resources are part of GSA's ever-growing collection of work aimed at improving brain health and early detection of dementia, including [The GSA KAER Toolkit for Brain Health](#) and [a variety of other brain health resources](#).



# Board of Directors Meets

The GSA Board of Directors met in person on June 25, led by Chair Judith L. Howe, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE. President Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, provided an update on relevant Society activities. Treasurer Carmen Sceppa, MD, PhD, FGSA, provided a Finance Committee report on GRF CPAs & Advisors-prepared 2024 Financial Audit Report and 2024 Forms 990/990T and D-20E filings. CEO James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH, ScD (Hon), provided updates on GSA's 2025 Action Plan and strategic activities.

Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs Patricia D'Antonio, BSPHarm, MS, MBA, BCGP, and other executive staff members provided an update on the GSA Strategic Plan goal of "advancing understanding of aging with meaning and end ageism." D'Antonio also provided an update on 2025 policy activities. Sceppa and Vice President of Publishing and Professional Resources Judie Lieu updated the board on the impact of the National Institutes

of Health's accelerated public access policy timeline and a new GSA journal.

The following three motions were approved by the board:

- The Finance Committee's recommendation to accept the GRF CPAs & Advisors-prepared 2024 Financial Audit Report and 2024 Forms 990/990T and D-20E filings;
- The Finance Committee's recommendation for staff to develop and negotiate a contract with Oxford University Press for a new open-access journal to be added to the GSA journal portfolio; and
- Approval of the March 2025 board meeting minutes, electronic vote verification for the 2025 class of GSA fellows, a Membership Committee recommendation to approve a W. Andrew Achenbaum Award, and the approval of new Corporate Leaders Forum members.

## 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:

- [2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report](#)
- [Staying Steady in the Storm: Navigating Career Uncertainty in Aging Scholarship](#)
- [Mentoring Through Uncertainty: Supporting Emerging Scholars in Challenging Times](#)
- [Federal and Foundation Funding Opportunities for Health Sciences Research: A Conversation with Funders and Funding Recipients](#)
- [Navigating the Federal Budget Process: A Focus on Health and Aging Research Funding](#)

### New Podcasts:

- [Social Isolation and Loneliness: Exploring Developments in Research, Advocacy and Policy](#) (Policy Profile 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.*

# JournalNews

## New Special Issues

- [AI-Driven Measurement in Gerontological Research, The Journals of Gerontology Series B Special Issue](#) (Webinar and Psychological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences)
- [Family Diversity and Dynamics Among Older Adults in the 21st Century](#) (Social Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences)
- [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Gerontology and Geriatrics Education](#) (Gerontology & Geriatrics Education)
- [Animal Models of Frailty](#) (Biological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, deadline December 1)
- [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)
- [Translational Geroscience](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, rolling submissions)

## Calls for Papers

- Extended: [Decision Neuroscience and Aging](#) (Psychological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, deadline September 15)
- Extended: [Mechanobiology of Aging: Forces Shaping Lifespan](#) (Biological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, deadline September 30)
- [Osteosarcopenia and Intrinsic Capacity](#) (Medical Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, deadline October 1)
- [Contributions of Research to Aging Policy](#) (Public Policy & Aging Report, abstract deadline October 15)
- [Biomarkers of Aging](#) (Medical Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, deadline November 1)

## DUAL-TITLE PhD + GERONTOLOGY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The Gerontology Program of the Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University

Combine a program of disciplinary depth in gerontology with interdisciplinary breadth to achieve the most useful credential in the field.

The dual-title PhD requires 24 on-campus graduate credit hours in approved aging-related courses. The graduate certificate requires 12 on-campus graduate credit hours in approved aging-related courses.

**CONTACT:** Hui (Cathy) Liu, PhD  
Director, Center on Aging and the Life Course  
calc@purdue.edu • purdue.edu/aging

EA/EQU

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# EducationalNews

## A Call to Action: Building a Stronger Future for Gerontology Education Together



*By Donna E. Schafer  
PhD, CPG  
President, NAPG*



*By Judith A. Sugar  
PhD, CPG, FAGHE  
Secretary, NAPG*



*By Anabel O. Pelham  
PhD, CPG  
Past President, NAPG*

As educators, we are alarmed by what we see as stagnation in gerontology education, specifically the lack of growth in degree programs at all levels. Despite well-known demographic trends, the number of gerontology degree and certificate programs in the United States has been shrinking.

Anecdotal reports describe declining enrollments and discontinued programs across institutions. This contraction is not just unfortunate – it jeopardizes the quality of life for older adults and their families. We're not keeping pace with the growing need for trained professionals to support, advocate, and innovate on behalf of older adults. Without strong educational pipelines, we risk stalling the progress we have made.

As a profession, we have not always been strategic in organizing our efforts. Fragmentation has diluted our message and impact. Too often, we've been focused inward instead of engaging the public and decision makers. We have not built the public support and buy-in from employers that could help our field thrive. Without a public that understands the field and ample employment opportunities, it is no wonder many programs struggle with enrollment.

We do have examples of successful efforts to promote our academic programs. Some programs have partnered with employers to align training with workforce needs. Others have used alumni networks and community outreach to recruit students. We need more systematic

ways to share these best practices because we need more than isolated successes. Collective action and consistent strategies to elevate the field of gerontology are required.

[GSA's strategic goals](#), which include raising interest in aging and supporting aging-related education, are an ideal springboard for employer engagement, public education, and partnership building.

Partnerships among academic programs, employers, and aging-related professional associations are needed more than ever. Statewide and regional gerontology associations are natural allies, as are professional organizations such as the [National Association for Professional Gerontologists](#) (NAPG). With over 500 credentialed members, 85% of whom have degrees in gerontology and many of whom bring deep experience in aging-related work from other fields, NAPG has promoted professional identity and standards for those working in the field of aging since 2005. NAPG is an advocate for gerontology and, partnering with other organizations, can be a conduit to employment opportunities.

We are calling on you to join us in strengthening gerontology. Let's embark on an initiative to re-energize gerontology education. Let's build a shared agenda, promote best practices, and help the public better understand the value of gerontology. We've accomplished big things before. Let's do it again by building a stronger future for gerontology education.



# Find Your People in a GSA Interest Group

*Because aging scholarship thrives when passionate people connect.*

- 6,000+ colleagues
- 65+ interest groups
- GSA Connect & calendar of events

**Find your fit today!**

[geron.org/interestgroups](https://geron.org/interestgroups)



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### Editor-in-Chief / Lead Author

Todd Kluss  
[tkluss@geron.org](mailto:tkluss@geron.org)



### Managing Editor

Charlie Baase  
[cbaase@geron.org](mailto:cbaase@geron.org)

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