

# GerontologyNews



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FGSA*



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## GSA Presidential Candidates Issue Statements

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Multisector Collaboration on  
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Online Event

**Liu:** I am honored to be considered for the role of vice president of GSA, and I bring experience bridging gerontology, public health, and health administration, as well as leadership across disciplinary and international collaborations. These experiences uniquely position me to help GSA strengthen its

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**Miller:** GSA is my professional home, and I am honored to accept the nomination for vice president. Population aging presents both important challenges and extraordinary opportunities, and GSA plays a critical role in advancing interdisciplinary collaboration, scholarship, education, policy,

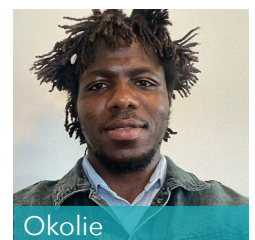
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## Internship Program Bringing Two Student Members to DC

GSA is welcoming two new participants in its policy internship program this summer. Established in 2019, this professional development opportunity for emerging scholars in the aging is named in memory of two policy experts with a long history of service to GSA – Greg O’Neill, PhD, a long-time GSA staff member who passed away in September 2018, and Kathryn Hyer, MPP, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE, a past GSA board chair and University of South Florida



Ulmer



Okolie

professor who passed away in January 2021.

This summer, GSA will welcome Tochukwu Jonathan Okolie, MGS, who is pursuing a PhD in human

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### Join a GSA Interest Group

Did you know GSA has more than 65 interest groups covering a range of topics? Each has its own GSA Connect Community to share information and resources.

### Stay Connected



# From the CEO

## Confronted with Anti-Science Agendas, the Community Is Pushing Back



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

It is gratifying to see many organizations stepping up, like GSA, to support scientists in becoming powerful advocates and helping them communicate the importance of the work they do. GSA is among these organizations taking a stand to defend the essential role of science in advancing innovation and improving all our lives as we age!

GSA has created a new [Scientist-Citizen Storytelling Lab](#). We issued a call for applications in late May and plan to welcome our first cohort of participants in this pilot program this summer. The term “[scientist-citizen](#),” introduced to audiences at the GSA 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting and subsequently shared through other GSA events and communications, refers to an individual committed to proactive public engagement that improves understanding of science and policies that support all of us as we age.

Who better to take on this role than GSA members? You have the exact skills needed to defend the integrity and importance of science at a time when science is being challenged on many fronts. New challenges are constantly emerging. In addition to online misinformation, they include [proposed budget cuts at the National Institutes of Health](#); the recent [elimination of every member of the National Science Foundation’s governing body](#); and [a proposed plan to give political appointees greater oversight of the federal grant process](#).

GSA’s Scientist-Citizen Storytelling lab will support members in translating their expertise into accessible, engaging public-facing digital communications. Public understanding is increasingly shaped through digital communities, creators, podcasts, social platforms, and networked conversations – and often far more effectively than through academic journals,

traditional media, or institutional channels.

In addition to supporting participants individually, the program will help GSA explore new models for member engagement, public communication, and amplification of research-backed perspectives on aging.

I am pleased to see the leadership role played by colleague organizations with related initiatives. GSA recently joined the [Coalition for Trust in Health and Science](#). I encourage you to learn more about their programs and take advantage of the useful resources available on their website.

You’ll also be interested in [Science to People](#), a new organization building infrastructure to improve the quality of information in the public sphere, rebuild trust in science, and support informed decision-making at scale. They have received philanthropic funding to develop VeriSci, an AI-powered science and public health communication platform. It is designed to help public health professionals, science communicators, and others turn evidence into messages that people can actually understand and act on, drawing from over 10 million peer-reviewed health and science articles.

I’ve also been impressed with the American Physical Society’s [Science Trust Project](#). It aims to equip scientists and health professionals with skills to develop meaningful, trusting relationships with various communities. They emphasize that trust is built through relationships, not simply through accurate information.

Through programs like these, and the GSA Scientist-Citizen Storytelling Lab, the scientific community is responding to the anti-science agenda. In an age when we must be increasingly vigilant against threats to science, we are motivated by the promise of many unique projects.

# MemberNews

## Your Support for Emerging Scholars: Doubled!

Empower the next generation of gerontologists by donating to a GSA Emerging Scholar Fund, which provides essential travel stipends for students to attend the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Double your impact: Past President Jim Nelson, PhD, FGSA, will personally match all donations – up to \$10,000 – received by July 31, 2026.**

[Make your gift today](#) to help secure the future of the field.

### Eligible Funds for the Matching Pledge

Your contribution directly supports travel stipends for tomorrow's scholars. You may direct your matched donation to any of the

following funds:

- Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)
- Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS)
- Biological Sciences (BioSci)
- Health Sciences (HS)
- Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP)
- Carol Schutz Student and Emerging Scholar Fund (ESPO)

By supporting these funds, you ensure that emerging professionals can present their research, build vital collaborations, and advance the field of aging.

### Members in the News

- The Washington Post quoted **Mark Lachs, MD, MPH**, and **Becca Levy, PhD, FGSA**, in a March 25 story titled "[People 65 and older can get better with age, study shows. This is the key.](#)"
- **Clara Berridge, PhD, MSW, FGSA**, was quoted in The New York Times on April 26 in a story titled "[How 'Age Tech' Might Help You Grow Old at Home.](#)"
- An April 30 Mother Jones story titled "[The New Frontiers of Aging](#)" quoted **Michelle Putnam, MGS, PhD, FGSA**, and **Cecilia Poon, PhD**.



### Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: [Eva-Maria Trinkaus, PhD, MA](#)

### Member Referral Program

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

**Harvey Sterns, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE** (who referred new member **Tamorra Sims, MPH**)

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).

## Recent Policy Actions



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

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 submitted a response to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) [request for information for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031](#). GSA recommends NIH prioritize aging as a fundamental biological and social process, emphasizing research on the mechanisms of aging, prevention across the lifespan, and the development of interventions that reflect real-world older adult populations. GSA also urges NIH to strengthen research capacity by supporting a diverse and sustainable workforce, investing in longitudinal data infrastructure, and expanding training and mentorship, especially for early-stage investigators. Additionally, GSA calls for enhanced research operations through improved coordination, transparency, and streamlined processes to ensure research is impactful, efficient, and trusted by the public.

GSA signed on to a letter from the National Alliance for Caregiving in response to the 2028 [Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Quality Measure Set](#) (QMS). The QMS is a nationally standardized framework for evaluating HCBS program quality. This tool enables standardization of quality metrics across HCBS programs, supports program accountability and integrity, and facilitates the assessment and improvement of HCBS. The letter aims to highlight the near-total absence of family caregivers from the measure set's framework and to emphasize the critical role they play in HCBS delivery, quality, and success.

## Long-Term Care: Getting Another Look Under Proposed Senate Agenda



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

Amid the ongoing upheaval and uncertainty that are quickly becoming the norm in Washington, DC, a bright spot occasionally surfaces. And I am not referring to the golden ballroom or new blue paint on the reflecting pool. I am referring to an issue that is near and dear to many of us in the field of health and aging policy: long-

term care. Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) has decided to work toward meaningful reform in a space that has been considered somewhat intractable and lacking the requisite political will.

I have known Wyden since the late 1980s, when I organized a couple of House Select Committee on Aging hearings for him in Oregon and Washington State, which included witnesses discussing expanding home health coverage and skilled



nursing home care issues. Before that, he taught gerontology and worked at the Gray Panthers and the Oregon Legal Services for the Elderly. He is not a newcomer to aging advocacy.

Wyden believes that “the current political moment is an inflection point and an opportunity to think boldly about the future of long-term care,” according to committee staff. The senator wants to be ready to move forward with improving the health care system for older people and people with disabilities as soon as Democrats regain control of Congress. Wyden and 16 compatriots [made a May 20 announcement](#) about a multi-year initiative that will center on 3 goals.

**Home Care:** invest in Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services, establish a home health benefit under Medicare, and integrate home health into the broader health care system.

**Nursing Home Quality:** strengthen staffing standards and oversight, make the financial structure of nursing homes more transparent, and improve resident protections.

**Workforce:** improve wages, benefits, recruitment, training, and retention of direct care workers, and make sure that family caregivers are included as important members of the care team.

These three goals reflect areas where need has been growing, in part, due to White House policies and Republican laws such as repealing nursing home staffing standards, cutting Medicaid, and restructuring the Administration for Community Living. As well, ICE raids and deportations raise uncertainties for people who have come to the U.S. willing to work as home care and nursing home aides.

The long-term care initiative is following a specific process. In addition to engaging and collaborating with senate colleagues, the committee has started meeting with health

and aging advocates and policy organizations in advance of a more detailed agenda and a request for information planned for the fall.

GSA members will be critical in providing evidence on solutions to achieve the outlined goals, either directly to their senators or through the request-for-information process.

The letter was co-signed by Senators Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Angus King (I-ME), Andy Kim (D-NJ), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR).

### **What Does This Mean for GSA Members?**

This is a rare alignment between a powerful leader’s legislative agenda and a research community’s work. The Finance Committee is seeking evidence and solutions, and our members have expertise directly relevant to each goal. Granted, Wyden is not the chair of the committee, and such an initiative in a majority Republican Congress will have to wait. Yet, just having this discussion about his agenda is a major step forward and gives advocates time to engage, prepare, and help to frame the issues and influence policies as they are being formed.

The committee [shared a press release](#) about the plans with links to a letter titled “Delivering An Affordable Home Care Guarantee for American Families” and other materials, including recent work on prescription drugs and health insurance.

GSA will likely have a formal response to the committee, as well as provide policy analyses and connect our member experts to the initiative. We will remain bipartisan and supportive of progress on each side of the aisle. Regardless of the outcomes of this initiative, this multi-year engagement will further our work to build relationships and credibility.

development and family sciences at the University of Connecticut; and Cameron Ulmer, BSN, RN, who is pursuing a PhD in nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“My work as a PhD student is focused on improving the lives of people with dementia, and through my experiences as a bedside nurse and a researcher, I recognize that all health care improvements are either amplified or limited by existing policy,” Ulmer said. “I chose to pursue this internship because of GSA’s strong, evidence-based advocacy and dissemination efforts at the federal level, which align closely with my aspirations to improve health care and quality of life for older adults through similar efforts.”

Okolie said, “I am happy to be part of internship because it will expose me to federal policies, regulations, and programs that shape the aging experiences of older adults. As an emerging aging scholar, I hope to learn from, engage with, and contribute to GSA’s policy advocacy efforts.”

Each intern will spend eight weeks in Washington, DC, this summer and be immersed in aging-related policy development and participate in this process at the national level. The internship program is managed by GSA Vice President for Policy and Professional Affairs Patricia M. D’Antonio, BSPHarm, MS, MBA, BCGP.

Internship duties and opportunities will include attending congressional hearings; researching and analyzing issues that impact older people; meeting with federal regulatory agencies and national coalitions; monitoring legislation and regulations; contributing to GSA’s Public Policy & Aging Report; developing policy sessions for the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting; drafting communications related to these issues impacting older people; and attending networking events with GSA staff.

## Board of Directors Meets

The GSA Board of Directors met in person on March 9 and 10, led by Chair Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, FAGHE, FGSA, AGSF, FNAOME. President Tamara Baker, MA, PhD, FGSA, provided an update on relevant Society activities, and CEO James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH, ScD (Hon), shared updates on GSA’s 2026 CEO Action Plan and upcoming program activities, including the March 2026 GSA Capitol Hill Day.

Treasurer Pamela B. Teaster, MA, MS, PhD, NREMT, FGSA, reported on the preliminary 2025 year-end operating budget. Additionally, Director of Member Engagement Gena Schoen and COO/CFO Jim Evans provided a division briefing covering GSA membership demographics, the chapter program, and the international workgroup. The board also held two generative discussions: the first focused on mentorship activities at GSA; the second,

led by board member Ulla Krieberegg, MA, PhD, FGSA, centered on arts and humanities scholarship within the Society, where the board was asked to provide perspectives on potential avenues for support.

### **The board approved the following four motions:**

- Approval of the December 2025 board meeting minutes.
- Selection of Seattle, Washington, as the site for the GSA 2030 Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Appointment of new GSA Corporate Leaders Forum members.
- Acceptance of the GSA CEO annual evaluation.

## GSA Enrich Programming Gives Guidance on Funding and Journal Publishing

Summer is great time to catch up on your streaming! Check out some of the latest recordings available on [GSA Enrich](#) with content relevant for ESPO members.

### **Strategies for Success: Tips for Achieving Funding from Foundation and Non-Profit Partners** (recorded May 18, 2026)

Recent changes to federal research funding have led more people to seek financial support from non-profit and foundation sources. Unfortunately, many of us have limited training in the best strategies for preparing non-governmental grant proposals, leaving us under-prepared to compete. To help us navigate the current landscape of foundational grants, ESPO has brought together three individuals to offer strategies for funding success.

### **Career Conversation: International Perspectives on Careers in Aging**

(Recorded May 14, 2026)

Aging is one of the most universal human experiences, yet the professional realities of working in aging and gerontology can look very different across regions of the world. While gerontologists may share a common commitment to improving the lives of older adults, their career paths are often shaped by distinct cultural, societal, institutional, and industry contexts. This Career Conversation explores these international perspectives by highlighting how careers in aging are experienced and developed across different global regions.

### **Inside Aging Research: Meet the Editors of Leading Journals** (Recorded April 28, 2026)

Editors from leading academic journals focused on older adults and aging shared insights about the scope and focus of these

titles, offered insights into their peer-review process, and gave guidance on what it takes to get research published in this field. They also answered audience questions, offering a unique opportunity to connect directly with the experts behind these journals.

### **Get to Know the National Institute on Aging: A Webinar for Early-Career Researchers**

(Recorded February 13, 2026)

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) supports a variety of training and career development opportunities for early-career investigators, including undergraduates, advanced-degree students, post-doctoral researchers, and junior faculty. In this webinar, NIA leadership provided an overview of NIA-funded research, followed by a presentation on funding mechanisms along with strategies to consider when applying for extramural grants, and Q&A.

### **Turning Your GSA Presentation into a Journal Submission for Innovation in Aging**

(Recorded February 5, 2026)

This webinar is designed to help presenters at the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting learn how to transition their paper or poster presentation into a manuscript submission to Innovation in Aging, GSA's open access journal.

### **Staying Steady in the Storm: Navigating Career Uncertainty in Aging Scholarship**

(Recorded August 22, 2026)

This webinar provided a reflective and restorative space for students and early career scholars navigating deep uncertainty, transitions in academia and research, and the emotional toll of early career pressures. The session focused on naming shared challenges, building emotional resilience, and fostering peer connection and collective hope.



Liu—continued from page 01

interdisciplinary and global reach.

I want to serve in GSA volunteer leadership to help sustain and expand GSA as a professional home where members at all career stages can collaborate, innovate, and lead. If elected, my priorities would be to support the integration of gerontology across higher education and professional training; expand membership and engagement through multidisciplinary and international partnerships; and advance workforce development and lifelong learning opportunities that prepare professionals across sectors to support aging populations.

Looking ahead, I see GSA’s role in the aging community growing as a convening leader that not only disseminates cutting-edge science, but also connects research, education, practice, and policy to drive equitable, person-centered aging. As vice president, president, and board chair, I would work collaboratively with members, leaders, and staff to advance this vision.

**Darren Liu, DrPH, MS, FGSA**, is a professor in the School of Public Health at West Virginia University, where he focuses on healthy aging, population health management, and

health equity. Within GSA, he has provided leadership through abstract reviewing, symposium organization, interdisciplinary collaborations, Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section service, and Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education initiatives, including the Gerontology Education Competency Workgroup. He serves as co-convenor of the International Comparison of Healthy Aging Interest Group, helping promote global and cross-national collaboration.

Beyond GSA, Liu has held leadership and advisory roles with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA), including service on ASPPH accreditation and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fellowship advisory committees and a prior term as an AUPHA Board member. In these roles, he has contributed to curriculum development, accreditation, and workforce initiatives that advance aging-related education and practice. He also contributes to the field through editorial leadership with *Gerontology & Geriatric Education*, *Innovation in Aging*, and *JMIR Aging*, and as co-editor of a textbook on quality and safety in long-term care.



Miller—continued from page 01

and practice to improve individual, family, and community well-being across the life course. My work as an educator, researcher, policy analyst, editor, and administrator has reinforced the importance of engagement and the dissemination and exchange of ideas across fields, sectors, professional roles, and jurisdictions.

Gerontology is a team sport, and GSA is uniquely positioned to cultivate the collaborations, connections, mentorship, and networks necessary to advance the influence of gerontologists in the United States and internationally. As I tell students and colleagues, “all careers are careers in aging.” Across my roles, I have focused on bridging disciplines

and sectors to strengthen aging policy, long-term services and supports, workforce development, and publicly engaged scholarship. As vice president, I would work to expand opportunities for mentorship and professional development, foster interaction across career stages and GSA sections, broaden participation in the Society, and promote policy-relevant, interdisciplinary scholarship that advances understanding of aging in an era of profound demographic, technological, and political change.

**Edward Alan Miller, PhD, MPA, FGSA**, is professor and chair of the Department of Gerontology, and a fellow of the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Trained in biology, public health, public administration, and political science, his research examines policies and practices shaping long-term

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services and supports for older adults. He has authored 160 peer-reviewed articles, 22 book chapters, and 9 books, and delivered hundreds of presentations. An active member of GSA since first attending the annual meeting in 1999, Miller has contributed extensively to the Society through scholarship, mentorship, service, and scientific programming across research, policy, and practice.

He served 10 years on the editorial board of *The Gerontologist*, organized symposia, reviewed abstracts, mentored students and emerging

scholars, and served three times on the Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Program Committee. He was named a GSA fellow in 2012 and received the Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Contributions to Healthy Aging in 2024. Miller earned a PhD in political science and health services organization and policy at the University of Michigan, completed a postdoctoral fellowship in public health at Yale University, served as a Fulbright Scholar in New Zealand, and has been editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Aging & Social Policy* since 2016.

Ballots for the GSA elections will be sent by e-mail to all members with a valid e-mail address on June 19. Reminders will be sent prior to the voting deadline of July 10. Make sure GSA has your correct email address on file by checking your member profile at [www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org). If you do not receive your electronic ballot, contact [ballots@geron.org](mailto:ballots@geron.org). The full biographical sketches and personal statements of all candidates running for GSA office [will be available online](#) by June 15.

## Candidates Unveiled for 2026 Elections

### GSA Board of Directors (Society-wide)

**President** (Vice President in year one, President in year two, Board Chair in year three)

Darren Liu, DrPH, MS, FGSA  
Edward Alan Miller, PhD, MPA, FGSA

#### Secretary

Sherry A. Greenberg, PhD, RN, GNP-BC, FGSA  
Tracie C. Harrison, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA

#### Board Member

John A. Batsis, MD, FGSA  
Lewis A. Lipsitz, MD, MS, FGSA

#### Board Member

Dawn C. Carr, PhD MGS FGSA  
Kara B. Dassel, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE

#### Board Member

Brian G. Downer, PhD, FGSA  
Elham Mahmoudi, PhD

### Section Leaders

#### Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Chair

Katarina Friberg-Felsted, PhD, MSG, FGSA, FAGHE  
Paul Nash, PhD, CPsychol, AFBPsS, FHEA

#### Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Chair

Monique J. Brown, Ph.D, MPH, FGSA  
Fei Sun, PhD, FGSA

#### Biological Sciences Section Chair

LaDora V. Thompson, PhD, PT, FAPTA, FGSA

#### Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Chair

Taylor Jansen, PhD  
Zhaoer Lin, PhD

#### Health Sciences Section Chair

Candace S. Brown, PhD, FGSA  
Allison Lindauer, PhD, APRN, FGSA

#### Social Research, Policies, and Practice Section Chair

Allison Gibson, PhD, MSW, FGSA  
Jarmin C. Yeh, PhD, MPH, MSSW

## Open Calls for Papers

- [Mechanobiology of Aging: Forces Shaping Lifespan](#) (Biological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, deadline June 30)
- [Celebrating 10 Years of Innovation in Aging: Innovation and the Innovation Process in Gerontological Research](#) (Innovation in Aging, deadline June 30)
- [Dyadic Health Science Across Adulthood and Aging: Charting Paths Forward in Theory, Methods, and Intervention](#) (The Gerontologist, deadline June 30)
- [Immigration, Migration Policy, and Aging: Impacts on Care, Families, Workforce, and Social Protection](#) (Public Policy & Aging Report, deadline July 1)
- [Advancing Psychological Aging Research Through Mixed Methods Approaches](#) (Psychological Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, deadline July 31)
- [Innovating Qualitative Research in Gerontology](#) (Innovation in Aging, deadline August 31)
- [Small Solutions to Big Problems: Gerontological Innovations](#) (Innovation in Aging, deadline October 1)
- [Innovations in Super-Aged Societies](#) (Innovation in Aging, deadline October 1)
- [Women's Health and Psychological Aging: Integrative Perspectives on Mind, Brain, and Behavior Across the Female Lifespan](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, deadline October 15)
- [Innovative Hypotheses on the Pathophysiology of Dementia Beyond Amyloid and Tau](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Social Sciences, October 30)
- [Genetic and Epigenetic Mechanisms of Aging and Longevity](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Social Sciences, deadline December 31)
- [Trials for Medical Sciences of Aging](#) (Medical Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, no deadline)
- [Brain Aging, Brain Health, and Dementia Prevention](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, no deadline)
- [Translational Geroscience](#) (The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, no deadline)

## Call for Grant Applications: Healthcare Improvement in Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosis and Care

GSA, in partnership with Lilly, is accepting applications for Healthcare Improvement grants focused on improving early diagnosis and care for Alzheimer's disease (AD) in primary care settings.

We seek proposals that address real-world challenges in the detection, evaluation, and care of people living with mild cognitive impairment due to AD or mild dementia due to AD. Projects should identify gaps in care and implement measurable strategies that improve patient outcomes, care coordination, and access to support services.

This initiative utilizes the GSA KAER framework (kickstart, assess, evaluate, and refer) to help primary care teams promote brain health and support earlier recognition and diagnosis of cognitive impairment.

Organizations and teams working in primary care, brain health, dementia care, healthcare improvement, and implementation science are encouraged to apply.

**Email [kaer@geron.org](mailto:kaer@geron.org) to receive the call for applications, including eligibility requirements and submission instructions.**

**Applications are due July 15, 2026.**

Questions about the KAER framework may be directed to Jen Pettis at [jpettis@geron.org](mailto:jpettis@geron.org).

Questions about the application process may be directed to Linda Ann Battiato at [battiato\\_linda\\_ann@lilly.com](mailto:battiato_linda_ann@lilly.com)

# Report Calls for Evidence-Based Strategies to Address Alzheimer's-Related Psychosis



["Alzheimer's-Related Psychosis: Interdisciplinary Perspectives for Understanding and Responding to Delusions and Hallucinations"](#) – the latest report in GSA's Insights & Implications in Gerontology series – underscores the clinical, emotional, and societal

impact of psychosis in individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and stresses the need for comprehensive, person-centered approaches to care.

Alzheimer's affects more than seven million people in the United States and is the cause of roughly 60-80% of all cases of dementia. Symptoms of Alzheimer's-related psychosis (ARP), such as delusions and hallucinations, are common symptoms that may occur at any stage of disease progression. These symptoms are associated with poorer outcomes, including accelerated cognitive decline, increased caregiver burden, higher rates of hospitalization, and earlier institutionalization.

"Psychosis in Alzheimer's disease is both common and complex, yet frequently underrecognized," said Kalisha Bonds Johnson, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC from Emory University, who served as one of the faculty overseeing the report's development. "These symptoms can dramatically affect quality of life for both affected persons and caregivers, making early identification and thoughtful management essential."

Addressing ARP requires a comprehensive approach emphasizing nonpharmacologic strategies to identify triggers and tailor interventions, according to the report. Interventions should focus on symptoms that cause distress or pose safety risks. When behavioral strategies are insufficient, pharmacologic options may be considered, though currently no medications are approved for managing ARP.

"We consider persistence, severity, and distress when determining how to manage symptoms," said Clifford Singer, MD, of Northern Light Acadia Hospital, who also served on the report's faculty. "Medications can be effective when used appropriately, but they come with risks and must be carefully managed."

The report notes that antipsychotic medications are commonly used off-label but are associated with safety concerns, including a risk for increased mortality in older adults with dementia. Clinical guidelines recommend cautious use, starting at low doses, with ongoing reassessment and attempts to taper when possible. Investigational pharmacologic treatment options are currently in clinical trials.

"Management of ARP must be individualized," Singer emphasized.

The report states that caregiver support is an essential component of addressing ARP. Caring for an individual experiencing delusions and/or hallucinations can be challenging for caregivers, particularly if they involve accusations or distressing misinterpretations. Caregivers can be educated to implement strategies such as providing reassurance and redirection to help manage distressing symptoms.

The report highlights the importance of shared decision-making, interdisciplinary collaboration, and proactive care planning to improve quality of life for individuals living with dementia and their families. It also offers perspectives from clinicians with experience treating patients with ARP.

Other report faculty include Sophia Geisser, BS, of the Alabama Research Institute on Aging; George T. Grossberg, MD, of the St. Louis University School of Medicine; and Martin Morthland, PhD, ABPP, of the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. Support for this issue of Insights & Implications in Gerontology was provided by Bristol Meyers Squibb.



**REGISTER NOW**



## **GSA** Forum **LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT**

June 16-17, 2026 | 12:00-2:00 PM ET each day

**Connecting Health Care,  
Public Health and Community  
for Dementia Detection and Care**

## **Gerontology**News

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