

gerontology news

The Gerontological Society of America®

September 2017

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September is Membership Month!

Help grow GSA's community by referring new members to GSA during September. For every new member you refer, GSA will email you a \$20 Amazon gift card! Visit growGSA.org for full details. With your help, we can foster an interdisciplinary network of aging professionals.

Are You A GSA Fellow? Let People Know!

GSA is encouraging its fellows to use the "FGSA" designation — which stands for fellow of The Gerontological Society of America — when listing their academic credentials after their name. *Gerontology News* will now follow this practice. Not a fellow? Learn more about the process at www.geron.org/fellows.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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Engage with GSA on social media!

GSA Publication Advocates Oral Health Promotion Across Professions

Recognizing oral health as an essential element of healthy aging, GSA has released a new white paper — “Interprofessional Solutions for Improving Oral Health in Older Adults: Addressing Access Barriers, Creating Oral Health Champions” — that makes six specific recommendations aimed at raising people’s quality of life as they age.

GSA’s goal is to promote oral and general health and quality of life outcomes in older adults by focusing all members of the health care team — medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and other professions — on interprofessional whole-person care that recognizes the inherent connection between oral and systemic health and is valued in the health care system.

“The steps outlined in the white paper can bring about positive change in the field by helping us all focus on key strategies that are most likely to have a positive impact on



improving oral health for older adults,” said Stephen Shuman, DDS, MS, chair of GSA’s Oral Health Workgroup. “With an issue this complex and challenging it is easy to lose sight of the ‘big picture,’ and the solutions outlined in

our white paper really amount to a well thought-out strategic plan or roadmap to guide us in our efforts and also inform key stakeholders about what we believe is necessary to create positive change.”

The white paper is the result of a March summit convened by GSA that included national leaders from 40 influential organizations working in the areas of aging and oral health education, research, policy and professional practice.

Continued on page 8

Wiener Chosen as *Public Policy & Aging Report's* Next Editor

GSA has named Joshua M. Wiener, PhD, FGSA, of RTI International as the editor-in-chief of *Public Policy & Aging Report*, effective January 2018.

“Dr. Wiener’s distinguished career as a researcher, policy analyst, and productive scholar make him exceptionally qualified for this position,” said Noah J. Webster, PhD, chair of GSA’s Publications Committee. “His prior editorial experiences and service to *Public Policy & Aging Report* as an editorial board member will ensure the continued success of the journal in the tradition of excellence demonstrated by outgoing editor Robert Hudson over the past 20 years.”

Public Policy & Aging Report — published quarterly by Oxford Journals on behalf of GSA’s policy institute, the National Academy on an



Wiener

Aging Society — explores policy topics generated by the aging of society. Each thematic issue is designed to stimulate debate, highlight emerging concerns, and propose alternative policy options. The audience consists of decision-makers in the public and private sectors, advisors and staff to those decision-makers, program administrators, researchers, students, and the interested public. Authors are drawn from the leadership ranks of the policy, practice, and research communities.

“Aging is at the crossroads of many of the country’s most important public policy issues, including Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and Supplemental Security Income,” Wiener

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From the Executive Director



Successfully Past a Major Milestone, GSA Looks to 2020

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

The final numbers for the IAGG 2017 World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics are in, and they are impressive. With GSA serving as host, we welcomed more than 6,000 participants from 80 countries. It was the largest event of its kind ever held! Take a look at pages 6 and 7 to get a sense of the highlights. I'm thrilled that so many GSA members attended and want to say a big "Thank You" to the many who served as informal ambassadors for the Society.

The hard work of GSA's officers, volunteer leaders, staff, and members paid off — as a result of the World Congress, GSA was able to welcome several hundred new members. (If this is your first issue of *Gerontology News*, welcome!)

Serving as host society for the World Congress provided a wonderful opportunity for GSA to further solidify its role as a connector, convener, and collaborator across the broad spectrum of stakeholders in the aging arena. Over the last several years, GSA has grown to become a home to scholars from a broad international gerontology and geriatrics community. Our Society has never been stronger and we are taking steps to ensure we remain vital in a dynamic environment.

In September, GSA members will have two opportunities to help in keeping the Society well-positioned for the years ahead. As you saw on the cover of this month's issue, it's GSA's Membership Month! This is something we do annually and offers you a chance to be rewarded for introducing new people to the Society. For every new member who joins through your referral, GSA will email you a \$20 Amazon gift card. Visit growGSA.org for full details. With your help, we can build upon the momentum of the World Congress to foster the Society's growing interdisciplinary network of aging professionals.

Following the World Congress, the next major milestone GSA will be building toward is our 75th anniversary in 2020. As we look to the future, we will continue to explore new ways to enhance the benefits we provide to

members based in the U.S. and abroad, and evaluate opportunities for strengthening the Society for the next 75 years.

For example, GSA's governance structure hasn't changed much from the framework laid down in 1945. Work is now underway to evaluate our governance structure to determine if any modifications are warranted to ensure we're operating in an effective manner that enables the Society to be future-focused. With the approval of the GSA Council, a workgroup led by president Barbara Resnick is currently reviewing our system of governance, including the membership structure, roles of various committees and interest groups, and the involvement of international members.

To be successful, we need your help. The entire GSA membership will be asked to participate in a related survey in September. We would appreciate your valuable feedback on this topic!

To implement this evaluation, the GSA Governance Workgroup has selected an outside organization, Quantum Governance, to manage this project. Quantum will assess GSA across eight critical functional areas, providing feedback and identifying gaps or areas for improvement that will help GSA achieve its vision, mission and strategic goals. We are working directly with Quantum's CEO, Michael Daigneault. He and his team have worked with hundreds of associations and nonprofits across the country, and indeed internationally, to assess and ultimately help strengthen their practices to achieve mission success.

Our governance project will conclude in 2018 and include a recommendations report on steps GSA should take to strengthen our governance and operations to ensure robust member involvement. As the world increasingly seeks out trusted sources of scientific information, professional societies like GSA are needed more than ever.

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New Books by Members

- "Social Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Perspective (10th ed.)," by Nancy Hooyman, MSW, PhD, FGSA, H. Asuman Kiyak, and Kevin Y. Kawamoto. Published by Pearson, 2017.
- "Perspectives on Interprofessional Education and Practice," by Carmen Morano, LCSW, PhD, FGSA. Published by NASW Press, 2017.

Members in the News

- On July 7, Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD, FGSA, was interviewed by NBCBLK in an article titled "Black, Gray and Gay: The Perils of Aging LGBTQ People of Color." She discussed LGBTQ-related discrimination among older adults of color.
- Sara Czaja, PhD, FGSA, and Jacquelyn James, PhD, FGSA, were interviewed for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on June 28 in an article titled, "Older Workers are Struggling with New Forms of Age Discrimination." The piece summarized their research on older adult employee discrimination.

Colleague Connection

This month's \$25 amazon.com gift certificate winner:

**Colleen Galambos,
PhD, LCSW, PhD, FGSA**

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member **William Kearns, PhD**, was randomly selected using randomizer.org.

For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Member Spotlight

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

Stephanie Hicks, PhD

Visit www.geron.org/membership to ask questions and read previous interviews.

Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Epstein-Lubow Will Head Hebrew Senior Life Center of Excellence

Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL), the largest provider of senior health care and communities in New England and an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, has named Gary Epstein-Lubow, MD, FGSA, as medical director for the organization's planned center of excellence for Alzheimer's disease and memory care. His appointment will begin in September. Lubow will build and oversee HSL's Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Care Program, which will deliver comprehensive clinical services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, along with their families, through clinical care, education, advocacy, and research. He and the program's team will serve seniors from the broader community, as well as those from HSL's system of health care and housing communities.

Hodgson Is New Director of Penn Nursing's Hillman Scholars Program

Nancy A. Hodgson, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, the Anthony Buividas Term Chair in Gerontology and an associate professor of nursing, has assumed the role of director of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing's Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation. The program, funded by the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation and launched in 2011, was established to educate a new cadre of nurse scientists and leaders to develop innovative solutions in health care. This unique program, takes students from the BSN to PhD simultaneously. Hodgson has more than 20 years of experience in geriatric nursing education and aging research, and a long-term commitment to designing and testing intervention strategies to improve the quality of life for chronically ill older adults and their caregivers.

Shuman Named Century Club Professor of the Year

Stephen Shuman, DDS, MS, an associate professor in the Department of Primary Dental Care at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, has been named Century Club Professor of the Year. This is the School of Dentistry's highest honor and is awarded annually to one faculty member in recognition of outstanding contributions to the school in the areas of education, service and research. His decision to pursue advanced education in geriatric dentistry led him to the University of Minnesota, where he completed his fellowship and MS degree in 1989. He currently directs the dental school's Oral Health Services for Older Adults Program. He also serves as the school's director of graduate education and director of graduate studies for the MS-Dentistry Program in the university's Graduate School. Additionally, he is dental director of the Walker Methodist Dental Clinic at Walker Methodist Health Center in Minneapolis, where he teaches geriatrics and maintains his clinical practice. His scholarly work has focused on oral health in long-term care, utilization of geriatric dental services, ethical and legal issues in special patient populations, and medical issues affecting the dental care of older adults. Shuman also chairs GSA's Oral Health: An Essential Element of Healthy Aging Workgroup.

GSAConnect Corner

- Ruth Palombo, PhD: "I recently returned from the Chinese Nutrition Science Congress in Beijing. It was an honor to represent GSA at the conference and to be part of the GSA delegation. ... Most interesting to me were sessions on advances and future directions in precision nutrition, creating a healthier Chinese diet, obesity and chronic disease prevention. My presentation was on a community nutrition program that I had developed."
- Amanda Cavaleri: "As many of you know, I am working to connect students to careers in aging and using film and multimedia storytelling to do so. I will be in Europe the end of August - September and greatly appreciate help finding folks to interview in Europe. I am looking for help connecting to the following to visit and film (4k and virtual reality): multi-generation communities (ie college students living in senior housing), unique living arrangements and models of care (i.e., Dementia Village), blue zones (Sardinia, Italy, and Ikaria, Greece), WW2 Veterans, holocaust and communism survivors, older (65+) tour guides, older adults (65+) who are living with passion/purpose (musicians, economists, designers, engineers, etc.)."

Stone Shares Insights on Applied Research, 2017 Pollack Award Lecture

It was wonderful to see so many GSA friends at the IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in San Francisco. I even ran into a colleague who studied with me at the University of Stockholm in the early 1980s and now teaches in Scotland. The conference surpassed the pre-IAGG hype, and one of the highlights for those who attended was the GSA Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging Lecture presented by the 2016 recipient, Robyn I. Stone, DrPH, FGSA. Since there were approximately 2.4 million sessions running during each time slot, I thought that a short interview with Robyn might be a nice way to share with more GSA members her perspective on applied research and public policy.

Stone is the senior vice president of research of LeadingAge in Washington, DC, and co-director of their LTSS Center @UMass Boston. She is an internationally recognized expert in aging and long-term care with experience in the public and private sectors, including senior roles at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the White House, and much more. Besides being a wonderful friend, she is a colleague whose advice and candor is well-respected. I mention some of her impressive experience here because she has truly bridged the aging research, policy, and political worlds with great success.

Brian: How does it feel to receive an award like this and then have six months or so to contemplate what you're going to talk about?

Robyn: It's an honor receive this award, and I was really excited about it, partly because it's from the Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section, which I've had the honor of being chair of and because I believe so strongly in productive aging and the on-the-ground aspect of applied research. I had always thought about how to talk about applied research and how one goes about translating it into the policy world and trying to influence practice.

Brian: Could you say a little bit about how you used the autobiographical approach to frame your talk?

Robyn: One of the things I wanted to do in this talk was to show that a researcher can actually make those links between research, policy and practice. Over my years of working in policy and also in training as a PhD researcher, I had opportunities to do research intramurally in the federal government and then work in policy and then move to a practice environment. But I always kept the applied research focus. I was able to really do a lot more in terms of not only doing the studies but then making sure that they were translated and very applicable to policy and practice. It is not a usual career for researchers or different members of the gerontology field. But I think it's a very exciting way to think about training and using jobs. In my talk, I was trying to get young people to think a little bit out



Stone

of the box in terms of opportunities there might be for applied research rather than just an academic or research track.

Brian: We both have been in DC for a few decades.

Robyn: I've literally been doing this work since 1977. I first moved to Washington to work at AARP. I did my master's thesis at AARP. Even then I think I always thought about bringing

the academic world together with the real world. So, it's been forty years, always with a focus on aging services and aging policy and the goal of trying to get more and more of our evidence to show what works and doesn't work and how we can influence policy and change practice.

Brian: On the Hill, we talk about the need for the politics, the process, and the policy to come into alignment to get things done. In your lecture, you spoke of aligning other pieces of the puzzle.

Robyn: Yes, for example, working on the long-term care cash benefits demonstrations that have led to policy and practice change (Cash and Counseling Consumer Directed Model) required teaming the Clinton Administration up with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, so we actually had enough resources to do the demonstration as well as the evaluation. A lot of it is taking advantage of an opportunity where there is a policy question, but then trying to frame it around research, an applied research effort where we are not only looking at the policies but we're also trying to get evidence behind it to get better credibility.

Sometimes these things just align, and I happened to be in the government and I had the ability, and I had an administration that was supporting this type of work. We were able to put the resources together, we worked with states to roll it out, and we had Mathematica Policy Research with us to do the evaluations. It all fell into place. After that, we created a technical assistance center to adapt the program so other states could use the program. There is often a long time frame for this kind of work: our affordable housing link with services, which I also discussed in the talk, we've been working on that for over a decade.

I think the difference between politics and research is that research takes a lot longer; politics can be very short term. One of the things that we do in our applied work is that we don't want to wait for the very end of the study before we start sharing findings. We're talking with folks throughout because what happens with policy people and even practice people is that they can't wait

ten years. We have an ongoing process of sharing interim findings and working with the networks to use what we learn. It's a very different approach than a lot of researchers are trained in.

Brian: It sounds like you make policy strides without the Hill's blessing.

Robyn: It's about being somewhat opportunistic in terms of how we're going to get something moving. If the Hill is going to move it, then let's work with them, or if we can get things through the executive branch, let's do it either way. I think that the other thing, Brian, is that because of my years in DC and in the federal agencies, I understand the policy world a lot more than some researchers. Which I think makes it a lot easier. As you know, it takes some time to understand how policy really works, or how to get it to work. The flip side of that is there are many policy people who are completely clueless about what's going on in the real world and what questions you need to ask to determine if programs are really working or not. That's the value of conducting research that can bridge those worlds, but not everybody can do that. They don't have the background.

Brian: It seems that another factor these days is that we don't have as many progressive members of Congress who are in power and willing to do more and experiment more, for example in the area of supportive services in housing, which we both have worked on.

Robyn: It's certainly not happening at the federal level, but one of the examples you use reminds me of what I call old wine in new bottles. The Congregate Housing Services Program and the Section 202 program were really the precursors to what we're talking about now. I mean it's not like they're new ideas; you just have to have the right timing. I think actually the risk of losing the 202 program inspired us to not only try to save it but look at a new version of it, and how to help people to age in their community successfully. These models are really variations on old themes. And right now if we don't have champions at the federal level, we have them at the state level. We're doing work in Massachusetts and we've got some real interest, so we have to go find where people are willing to do the work.

Brian: I wonder if you'd want to comment on other roles you have had and other avenues that researchers can use to be involved in sharing their research and in getting it in the mainstream.

Robyn: Right, well I think The Pepper Commission (the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on Comprehensive Health Care) and the Clinton health care reform effort are very different — obviously with a congressional commission and the second was an executive branch activity — but both were very much based in doing very good research to create policy options. We had some very good researchers, both on the Pepper staff and the Clinton task force, especially on the long-term care side, which I was heading up.

So those researchers coming together with policy people and then talking with real world implementers, that was essential. I think researchers need to get more involved. I was elected to the National Academy of Sciences several years ago, which is a place that used to

be more academic but is now developing policy forums and other types of applied activities. They bring researchers and policy people and practice people together, and I think the ability of researchers to be at the table with other stakeholders is really really important.

And it's one of the reasons that at GSA, we understand that we can't stay in our ivory towers. We need to actually mingle with these other folks and understand their language because your average policy person will not understand the research findings without some translation. I think being able to do that and having a language to speak to policymakers and key stakeholders is very important and as you know, Brian, we continue to learn how to do it most effectively.

To be concluded in next month's issue.

Recent GSA Policy Actions

GSA provided comments to the Senate Special Committee on Aging in response to a request for information related to a forthcoming committee report on the nation's workforce and older Americans. To help guide the effort, the committee solicited information about the opportunities and challenges facing older Americans in the workforce, best practices employers are implementing to create age-friendly workplaces, and steps policy makers should consider to help support older workers. GSA's professional affairs team will continue to monitor and provide updates on the progress of the report.

GSA Senior Director of Strategic Alliances and Communications Karen Tracy and GSA Visiting Scholar Katie Maslow, MSW, presented an overview of the newly released GSA KAER Toolkit — a four-step process to detecting cognitive impairment and earlier diagnosis of dementia — to the members of the Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease coalition. The group works collaboratively to focus the nation's attention on accelerating transformational progress in care and support to enrich the quality of life of those with dementia and their caregivers; detection and diagnosis; and research leading to prevention, effective treatment, and eventual cures.

GSA Senior Manager of Communications Todd Kluss, MA, attended a briefing on the Personal Care Products Safety Act on August 16. The legislation would provide the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the authority to regulate personal care products and sets up a process for how this will be done, including the safety review of specific chemicals for use in cosmetic products. Although the FDA has oversight of personal care/cosmetic products, they have little legal authority to actually regulate them beyond requiring that ingredients be included on the product label. They do not currently regulate the chemicals in these products, or even have the authority to issue a mandatory recall if a product is harmful. This has led to questions about the safety of certain ingredients, lack of clear guidance for companies, and a patchwork of state laws and regulations that are not uniform.

The 21st IAGG World Congress

July 23 to 27, 2017 • S

Diverse Attendance and Support

More than 6,000 people made their way to San Francisco, California, for the 2017 World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics. GSA hosted this event on behalf of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Among the attendees, 49 percent came from a total of 79 countries outside the U.S. More than 40 sponsors provided support. And the program featured 693 sessions during the five-day event at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis hotel and Moscone West convention and exhibit center. The meeting's theme was "Global Aging and Health: Bridging Science, Policy, and Practice."

Unique Events

There were two keynote addresses at the World Congress Opening Ceremony and Lecture. In "Disrupt Aging," AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins discussed her organization's efforts to change the conversation about what it means to grow older — so aging can be something to look forward to, not something to fear. And Linda Fried, MD, of Columbia University presented "Benefitting from the Third Demographic Dividend," which demonstrated how the assets of an aging population can be brought to fruition, and how societies can become stronger because of longer lives.

As hosts for this World Congress, GSA introduced several new features, including the popular Age Stage and Tech Day. As a collaboration between GSA and the IAGG Humanities and Arts Workgroup, Age Stage provided a venue to highlight the many ways creativity plays a role in aging. Tech Day brought together leading companies, gerontologists, and entrepreneurs engaged in developing technology solutions for older adults.

The photographs on the right give more details about these and many other unique events.

▶ Outgoing IAGG President Heung Bong Cha of South Korea transferred the reins to his successor, John W. "Jack" Rowe. The IAGG secretariat will be based in the U.S. for the next four years.



▲ At the Opening Ceremony and Lecture, keynote speaker Linda Fried (left), dean of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, argued that "the discoveries, evidence and insight that the members of this society have created over the last decades can now position us for a transformational possibility: that we could create a 3rd demographic dividend based on longevity and its opportunities." The other keynote speaker, AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins (right), told the audience that "the challenge for all of us is to take advantage of the information, the research and knowledge we have about living and aging well — to bridge the gaps of science, policy and practice — and to create public policies and programs that help our citizens live well every day and that empower them to choose how they live and age."

▲ Former GSA presidents gathered for a photo: "Jack" Rowe, Harvey Jay Cohen, GSA President, GSA President Hayflick, Roger McCarter, and Lawrence Morrow-Howell, Terrie Fox Wetle, C... and Barbara Resnick.

s of Gerontology and Geriatrics

San Francisco, California



◀ ▶ The Exhibit Hall hosted booths from approximately 100 organizations, and also served as the venue for the meeting's many poster sessions.



Panel for a meeting. Back row: John W. George Martin, Vern Bengtson, Leonard Rubenstein. Front row: Nancy Carroll Estes, Lisa Gwyther, Toni Antonucci,



◀ ▼ The Age Stage included performances by older performers (60 years and over) as well as presentations by persons of all ages whose work has age or older persons as muse or subject matter.



Get with the Trend

During the week of the World Congress, nearly 12,000 tweets were shared using the meeting hashtag #IAGG2017. These tweets reached more than 31 million users around the world! On Facebook, IAGG reached more than 250,000 users during the meeting. Be sure to visit facebook.com/iagg2017 to view all of the conference photos and tag yourself in the albums!

IAGG in the News

The World Congress issued press passes to more than 70 reporters in San Francisco, including representatives from The Washington Post, The San Francisco Chronicle, Smithsonian, Politico, CNBC, New America Media, Next Avenue, La Opinion, Kaiser Health News, The Louisiana Weekly, and several NPR affiliates, among others.

Among these press attendees were 18 new and 11 continuing participants in the Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, which GSA organized for the eighth consecutive year in conjunction with New America Media — with support from AARP, The Silver Century Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, The Retirement Research Foundation, and The John A. Hartford Foundation. Half of the participants in the program represented media outlets that serve minority audiences.

Looking Ahead

GSA hosted the World Congress in place of its own Annual Scientific Meeting in 2017. GSA will resume its traditional schedule in 2018, when the next Annual Scientific Meeting will be held from November 14 to 18 in Boston, Massachusetts. The theme will be "The Purposes of Longer Lives" and the abstract submission period will open this December. Visit www.geron.org/2018 to learn more!

funding opportunities

NIA Grant Will Support Studies of Socioeconomic Disparities in Health, Mortality

A new funding opportunity from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) will support studies that identify mechanisms, explanations, and modifiable risk factors underlying recent trends of growing inequalities in morbidity and mortality by income, education, and geographic location at older ages in the U.S. Applicants are encouraged to consider a variety of health outcomes in order to explain the processes generating these trends. Applicants are strongly encouraged to present well-developed conceptual models. Examples of analytic approaches include (but are not limited to) those that identify the mechanisms that explain growing socioeconomic and geographic inequalities in health at older ages, explain their role in racial disparities, and detect modifiable risk factors; ascertain the extent to which these trends are driven by age, period, and cohort-related factors; consider the role of education, income, and geographic region as causal factors versus alternative explanations such as differential selection over time or shifting composition of groups; leverage longitudinal data, ideally from childhood through old age; use a diverse set of analytic methods (e.g. life-cycle, comparative, cohort, multi-level); consider how institutional and cultural contexts (including their timing within the life course of individuals) influence health disparities; examine a wide range of physical, mental, and functional health outcomes, in addition to mortality; and capitalize on NIA-funded data sources with life history and geographic information (e.g., English Longitudinal Study of Ageing; Health and Retirement Study; Midlife in the United States; National Longitudinal Mortality Study; Panel Study of Income Dynamics; Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe). Examples of data improvements that fall within the scope of this FOA include (but are not limited to) those that enhance existing data resources to improve data availability on a variety of topics (e.g., early life development, exposures to inequality

prior to midlife, comprehensive stress measurements, employer and work issues, and minority groups) to enable examination of within-group heterogeneity; and enhance existing clinical studies to add complementary measures in areas such as social, emotional, and psychological domains. Applications are due October 20. The full call can be viewed at bit.ly/2sLbJGD.

Federal Funds Target Central Neural Mechanisms of Age-Related Hearing Loss

A new funding opportunity announcement issued by National Institute on Aging and National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders is encouraging basic or clinical research applications that investigate central neural mechanisms of age-related hearing loss in older adults and/or in relevant animal models. This announcement is driven by the need to address a major gap in the understanding of the central pathways and neural networks that are involved in hearing loss and how these may be altered in the context of the aging brain, as well as how natural aging influences central auditory plasticity. Hearing loss is the most prevalent sensory loss in older adults and the third most chronic health condition facing them. Approximately two-thirds of Americans 70 years or older currently suffer from hearing loss, and this number is expected to rise significantly as the older adult population grows. Studies that explore the neural changes that occur with 'natural' aging from the inner ear, along the auditory pathway to the auditory cortex are highly encouraged. Investigators may employ a variety of approaches including cellular, molecular, imaging, physiological and genetic to address this area of research. Applications focused on the design of hearing aids and hearing assistive technologies will be deemed non-responsive to this announcement and will not proceed to review. Applications proposing clinical trials also will not be accepted. Letters of intent are due October 8. To access full details, visit bit.ly/2xzEYO6.

Continued from page 1 – GSA Publication Advocates Oral Health Promotion Across Professions

Informed by the summit's deliberations, the GSA Oral Health Workgroup formulated the following six recommendations:

- Oral health education and experiences in training programs for all health professions
- Integrated interprofessional educational programs for practitioners
- Medicare coverage of oral health services
- Getting people to care about oral health in older adults
- Improve access to dental care
- Creating a coalition of oral health champions

Each recommendation is accompanied by a suggested list of stakeholders and potential challenges to overcome, specifically in the policy, education, practice, research, and funding arenas.

"The efforts of our workgroup and summit were unique in the broad-based involvement, input, and perspectives we were able to obtain to generate the potential solutions outlined in our white paper," Shuman said. "The challenges of improving the oral health



Shuman

of older adults are substantial and complex, so to successfully address them, it takes a large and influential organization like GSA with the resources necessary to mobilize this type of interprofessional and multidimensional effort engaging a wide array of key stakeholders."

The summit and whitepaper — as well as a related spring 2017 issue of GSA's What's Hot newsletter titled "Oral Health: An Essential Element of Healthy Aging" — were developed by GSA with support from GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare. The resources can be accessed at www.geron.org/oralhealth.

"Older adults now have more natural teeth and higher oral health expectations than ever before," Shuman said. "We also now know that oral health is not only important for basic comfort and appearance, but also for systemic health, nutrition, and social and psychological well-being."

ESPO's Pilots New Dissertation Writing Group

By Kristen Porter, PhD, MS, MAc, LAc, JP

An ESPO special task force commenced at GSA's 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting to design and pilot a free virtual dissertation writing group program for ESPO members. The vision for the program was part of ESPO Chair Kristen Porter's platform statement in the 2015 ESPO leadership election: "Her vision is one in which every GSA student member successfully completes a dissertation. To that end, her goal is to adapt a peer-led dissertation writing group she previously developed at her school (University of Massachusetts Boston Department of Gerontology) to a national level to provide ESPO members access to the tools and support to achieve a timely completed dissertation."

Dissertation writing groups assist doctoral students in finishing their dissertation by providing a supportive environment in which to exchange critical feedback, push past procrastination, and stay accountable to their goals. The dissertation may be an advanced graduate student's first project that is largely unstructured and potentially isolating thereby leading to a circuitous and ambiguous process of writing and completing the project. Dissertation writing groups have been used at multiple universities, such as Stanford and MIT to help students navigate the dissertation process and improve the final product.

The special task force is developing the ESPO Dissertation Writing Group Program based upon review of best practices, potential virtual delivery methods, and the evaluation of a summer pilot with 28 ESPO members across five writing groups. The program is designed to be peer-led in order to provide members with a confidential space for support, autonomy over group consciousness, and to limit GSA administrative time.

Each small group (three to six members) meets via Skype every other week for an hour to an hour and a half. The virtual Skype-based format allows members to connect from a distance. A semester-long commitment is required. At the end of the session,

members are welcome to continue for additional semesters through their successful dissertation defense.

In the ESPO Dissertation Writing Group Program, students can be expected to:

- Create a writing schedule with measurable goals.
- Report on goal progress at each session for accountability.
- Give and receive feedback on writing drafts including the concept paper, dissertation proposal and chapters.
- Support each other through the sharing of resources and ideas and troubleshooting challenges in a peer-led environment.
- Engage via a private GSA Connect Dissertation Writing Group Community to share resources and reach out for support outside of their small group.

Students, faculty and the academic community all benefit when the dissertation is completed. The ESPO Dissertation Writing Group Program fosters a supportive network of peers, establishes positive writing habits critical for a successful career, and enhances GSA's goal of successful student development.

The special task force would like to thank GSA's Associate Director of Publications/ESPO Liaison Megan McCutcheon, Associate Director of Membership and Social Media Kelsey Glatfelter, and Manager of Awards and Governance Virginia Suitor for their support and assistance.

The Dissertation Writing Group Program Special Task Force members are A. Katherine "Katie" Harrington, MS, MA (chair); Allyson Brothers, PhD; M. Aaron Guest, MPH, MSW; Bruce Haimowitz, MS; Frances Hawes, MS; Sara Keary, PhD; Caroline McDermott, MS, RN; Kristen E. Porter, PhD, MS, MAc; and Andrew Frank-Wilson, PhD, MSc.

For more information or to sign up, go to www.geron.org/dwg.

Continued from page 1 – Wiener Chosen as Public Policy & Aging Report's Next Editor

said. "I am eager to make *Public Policy & Aging Report* the premier journal featuring analyses and research on these critical topics."

Wiener is a distinguished fellow at RTI International. With more than 40 years of experience as a researcher and policy analyst, he is the author or editor of eight books and more than 300 journal articles, reports, and monographs on long-term care, quality assurance systems, residential care facilities, international health care systems, Medicaid, Medicare, and health reform.

He is currently involved in studies of dementia care programs, patient centered medical homes, and Medicaid home and community-based services. He is also the co-director of the Administration for Community Living-funded National

Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center. Wiener led the development of the first comprehensive long-term care microsimulation model in the U.S.

Prior to coming to RTI International, Wiener did policy analysis and research for the Urban Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Health Care Financing Administration (the predecessor to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Congressional Budget Office, the New York State Moreland Act Commission on Nursing Homes and Residential Facilities, and the New York City Department of Health. Wiener also is a GSA fellow, which is the highest level of membership within the Society.

Future City Competition Focuses on Age-Friendly Cities

The Future City Competition has announced its theme for 2017-2018: The Age-Friendly City. This is the 26th annual international competition and the middle school students are asked to envision an urban environment that keeps growing community of older adults active, engaged and independent. This year, Future City is asking middle school students to respond to the issue of The Age-Friendly City and address the challenges in designing innovative solutions that can serve an urban area's older population. Students are tasked with identifying age-related issues in their city planning and engineering a framework that enables seniors to remain active, independent and engaged. Working in a team with an educator and STEM mentor, students present their vision of the future through a virtual city design (using SimCity™ software); a 1,500 word city essay; a scale model of their city (built with recycled materials); and in a short presentation to a panel of STEM

professionals. The deadline to register is October 31. Learn more at www.futurecity.org.

Certificate in Gerontology Acute Care Now Offered at UM-Flint

Starting this fall, the University of Michigan-Flint School of Nursing is offering a nursing certificate in adult gerontology acute care. In creating the program, the school cited an increasing demand for acute care providers in veterans' medical centers, emergency departments, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, and other settings. To learn more, visit bit.ly/2ivNlaD.

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If your institution is launching a new program, opening a new center, or starting an innovative project, please send it to GSA for inclusion on this page! Email your submissions to news@geron.org.

new resources

Report Spotlights Workplace Practices to Support Caregivers

AARP and the Respect A Caregiver's Time Coalition (ReACT) have released a new report, "Supporting Working Caregivers: Case Studies of Promising Practices," which points to the provision of caregiver-friendly policies and practices as a potential new weapon in the war for talent. Fourteen case studies in the report highlight organizations leading the way by providing a broad array of information resources and referrals, flexible work arrangements, paid time off for caregiving, emergency backup care, and, in some cases, high-touch counseling and care management advice. Interviewed with business and human resources executives from the profiled organizations indicated that time and flexibility are what matter most to employees when it comes to balancing work and caregiving. Close to half of the employers interviewed provide paid time off for caregiving as well as emergency backup care and flexible work arrangements. The 14 case studies in the new report include well-known organizations from both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, and both large and small employers. They represent a broad set of industries, including financial services, health care, higher education, home care, management consulting, media, and technology. To read the full report, visit bit.ly/2uHhYib.

LeadingAge Launches Center for Workforce Solutions

LeadingAge has announced the launch of its Center for Workforce Solutions, which will focus on workforce resources for the aging services field. The center features promising practices, ideas for key partnerships, tools to calculate turnover, member testimonials, podcasts, policy news, and more. It will be directed by Susan Hildebrandt, vice president of workforce initiatives. The goal of the center is to reposition the field of aging services to attract and support a

quality workforce at all levels. It includes the following strategies: framing/messaging working in aging services; gathering promising practices; supporting and developing workforce policy at the state and federal levels; and developing key partnerships around this issue. The center plans to collaborate with traditional partners, such as community colleges, as well as non-traditional partners, including businesses, to find practical solutions to workforce challenges. To learn more, visit leadingage.org/workforce.

Medicare Trustees Report Shows Trust Fund Solvent Through 2029

The Medicare Trustees has projected that the trust fund financing Medicare's hospital insurance coverage will be depleted in 2029, one year later than projected in last year's report. Lower spending in 2016, lower projected inpatient hospital utilization, and slightly better projected hospital insurance deficit in 2017 than in 2016 were the contributing factors to the extended solvency projection. Further, because spending levels in Medicare did not exceed its targets, the Independent Payment Advisory Board, set up by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, was not triggered. In 2016, the Medicare program provided health insurance coverage to 56.8 million beneficiaries. Total Medicare expenditures were \$679 billion, and income was \$710 billion. Total Medicare spending was slightly lower than estimated in last year's trustees report. Outlays were slightly lower for Part A and Part D than previously estimated while Part B expenditures were very close to the 2016 estimate. The trustees project that the 2018 Part B premium will remain at the 2017 levels and that the Social Security cost of living adjustment would be 2.2 percent. A copy of the report is available here at go.cms.gov/28PqliB.



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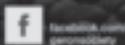
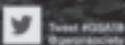
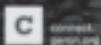


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Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, journalist, cultural critic and institution builder, Professor Gates has authored seventeen books and created fourteen documentary films. Host of the popular show "Finding Your Roots," Professor Gates is one of the United States' most influential cultural critics and is both an eloquent commentator and formidable intellectual force on multicultural and African American issues.



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