

## GSA 2026 Election Guide

This document contains biographical sketches, candidate statements, and personal statements for 2027 officer candidates in the following categories:

- Board of Directors
- Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)
- Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section
- Biological Sciences (BioSci) Section
- Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO)
- Health Sciences (HS) Section
- Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) Section

## GSA Mission Statement

Foster Excellence, Innovation and Collaboration to  
Advance Aging Research, Education, Practice and Policy.

**ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM EDT, FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026**

Check your email for voting instructions.

**Who is entitled to vote?**

- All members of the Gerontological Society of America who have designated a primary section are entitled to vote for officers of that section and for Board of Directors positions.
- All members who are Academy Representatives with the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education are entitled to vote for officers of AGHE as well as for officers of their primary section and for the Board of Directors positions.
- All student and transitional members are entitled to vote for officers of ESPO as well as for officers of their primary section and for the Board of Directors positions.
- Members who have not affiliated with a section are entitled to vote for the Board of Directors positions.

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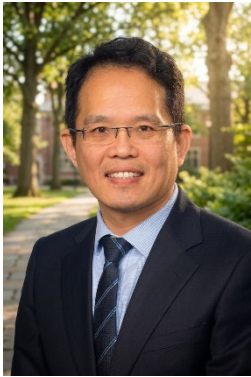
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**Board of Directors Elections**  
**Vice President – Select One (Three-year term beginning January 2027)**



**Darren Liu, DrPH, MS, FGSA**

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 the Gerontological Society of America, he has provided leadership through abstract reviewing, symposium organization, interdisciplinary collaborations, SRPP service, and AGHE initiatives, including the Gerontology Education Competency Workgroup. He serves as Co-Convener of the International Comparison of Healthy Aging (ICoHA) interest group, helping promote global and cross-national collaboration.

Beyond GSA, Dr. 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 CDC 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.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am honored to be considered for the role of Vice President of the Gerontological Society of America, 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 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.*

**Personal Statement:** *My professional journey has been guided by a commitment to improving the health and well-being of older adults through education, collaboration, and innovation. Since joining GSA as a first-year doctoral student in 2002, I have experienced the Society as a community that both nurtures and challenges scholars, practitioners, and leaders across disciplines. This experience has shaped my dedication to cultivating the professional growth of junior colleagues and creating opportunities for all to engage in advancing the field.*

*Throughout my career, I have mentored students, early-career scholars, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, emphasizing inclusive collaboration, shared learning, and mutual support. I have sought to design educational programs, symposia, and cross-national projects that elevate emerging voices and foster equitable participation in research, education, and practice. My lived experience as an immigrant scholar working at the intersection of gerontology, public health, and health administration has reinforced my belief that diverse perspectives are essential for achieving GSA's mission to advance innovation in aging through research, education, and practice.*

*If selected to serve, I will continue to prioritize mentorship, inclusive leadership, and opportunities for members at all career stages to contribute meaningfully to the work of GSA.*



### **Edward Alan Miller, PhD, MPA, FGSA**

Edward Miller 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 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, Dr. 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 SRPP program committee. He was named a GSA Fellow in 2012 and received the Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Contributions to Healthy Aging in 2024. Dr. 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.

**Candidate Statement:** *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, 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.*

**Personal Statement:** *Throughout my career, I have been deeply committed to cultivating the professional growth of students, junior scholars, and colleagues across gerontological research, policy, and practice. At the University of Massachusetts Boston—one of the most diverse university campuses in the United States—I have mentored and collaborated with individuals from a broad range of backgrounds, disciplines, and nationalities, work for which I received a college Award for Outstanding Student Mentorship. I train students to conduct methodologically rigorous, ethically grounded, and community-engaged scholarship, and I have co-authored dozens of peer-reviewed publications and presentations with mentees who now serve in academic, government, advocacy, and community-based settings across the United States and internationally. GSA has provided me with important opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, and interdisciplinary engagement for nearly three decades. Through leadership in academic programs, editorial work, scientific programming, and student and professional development, I have strengthened pathways into gerontology and aging services, particularly for historically underrepresented individuals, and expanded opportunities for emerging scholars and professionals. As Vice President, I would value the opportunity to provide leadership in promoting partnerships across sections to support professional development throughout career stages, foster cross-sector engagement, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthen opportunities for broad participation in advancing the field.*

**Board of Directors Elections**  
**Secretary– Select One (Three-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**



**Sherry A. Greenberg, PhD, RN, GNP-BC, FGSA**

Dr. Sherry Greenberg is the inaugural Evelyn Lauder Chair in Adult Gerontology, Professor, and Specialty Director, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program at Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing in New York. She is an Advisory Group member on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative. Research interests include Age-Friendly Health Systems, fear of falling, and oral health. Dr. Greenberg brings extensive leadership experience having served as President, Director-at-Large, and 5-year Board member, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (2017-2021) and Chair and Vice Chair, Expert Panel on Aging, American Academy of Nursing (2022-2025). An active GSA member for over 20 years and Fellow

(2018), she's presented and chaired multiple sessions, served as ESPO representative, and is a member of the Gerontology & Geriatrics Education Editorial Board. Dr. Greenberg is a Fellow in multiple organizations, Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing, and Health and Aging Policy Fellow (2025-2026). Dr. Greenberg earned academic nursing degrees, Baccalaureate, Masters, and PhD, from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is a Certified Professional in Age-Friendly Health Care, has practiced as a certified gerontological nurse practitioner in acute, long-term care, and outpatient primary care practices, and has taught at undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral nursing levels.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am uniquely suited to serve as Secretary bringing past leadership experiences from within and outside GSA. As an engaged GSA member and Fellow, I have presented and chaired multiple sessions, served as ESPO representative to the Health Sciences Section and Publications Committee, and been a long-standing member of the Nursing Care of Older Adults Interest Group and Health Sciences Section. I contributed to GSA's White Paper: National Adult Vaccination Program and promote use of the KAER Toolkit on Brain Health in practice. I have supported colleagues for GSA fellowship and look forward to cultivating innovation and excellence, and fostering collaborative relationships to contribute to membership growth and advancing the fields of geriatrics and gerontology. I served 15 years as Editor, HIGN (Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing) Try This:® Series promoting evidence-based practices. I am organized, detail-oriented, and understand the importance of leadership and service activities, especially collaborating with others. As Secretary, I will serve as a productive member of the Board and lead activities while shaping GSA's vision, mission, values, and growth. My research, nursing practice, and experience in health policy have prepared me well and I would be honored to serve the GSA membership with positivity and enthusiasm.*

**Personal Statement:** *As Secretary, I will uphold GSA's mission to foster excellence, innovation and collaboration to advance aging research, education, practice, and policy. My work ethic aligns with GSA's values of integrity, interdisciplinarity, and agility. As an experienced mentor, I am dedicated to the development and education of the next generation of providers caring for older adults, interprofessional education and practice, research endeavors, and the provision of evidence-based, equitable, age-friendly care. As a specialty director and past Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association Leadership Institute mentor, I foster growth of early career scholars and colleagues leading to presentations, publications, and engagement in national organizations. As an advisory group member and participant on Age-Friendly Health Systems projects, I have influenced system change and innovative collaborative initiatives so older adults can do what matters most to them with support from families, caregivers, and communities. Service in GSA sections, interest groups, and annual meetings have significant impact on care of older adults, gerontological specialists, and students. As a Board member, I plan to instill a culture of professionalism, collaboration, and growth. Collectively, we can drive action needed to support interdisciplinary, innovative education, professional development, research and policy endeavors, and promotion of evidence-based, comprehensive, equitable, age-friendly care.*



### **Tracie C. Harrison, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA**

Tracie Harrison joined the University of Iowa College of Nursing as professor and associate dean for research and scholarship in 2024. She holds a PhD in Nursing with portfolios in Gerontology and Women's Studies from the University of Texas at Austin (2004). Harrison spent 18 years as tenured faculty in the School of Nursing at UT-Austin, serving seven years as founding-director of a long-term care center. Next, Harrison was professor and Sun Endowed Chair in Geriatric Nursing at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (2022). Harrison's research interests include aging, disability, gender, and cultural beliefs on aging. She has studied how functional limitations affect outcomes for people with mobility, vision, mood and cognitive limitations. She has led NIH/foundation training and grant support for her work in women's health, aging, and disability. She has experience conducting mixed-methods, ethnographic, bilingual studies of Mexican

Americans in Texas with mobility limitations as well as a study in central Mexico. In 2011, she was selected as a Health and Aging Policy Fellow with the Administration on Aging and Office on Disability, and in 2016, she sat on a NASEM committee on Social Security and Disability.

**Candidate Statement:** *As Secretary, I bring experience and training, and a long-term affiliation with the Gerontological Society of America. In addition, I bring respect for multi-cultural, diverse populations, as well as depth of experience in research and policy. I have knowledge of the GSA committee structure and interest group affiliations. I have sat on boards, committees, and interest groups relevant to the aging population and to educators, researchers, policy advisors, and private citizens. My knowledge of the aging network with varying state structures, and my interdisciplinary connections provide a unique perspective. I will encourage appreciation of a variety of perspectives while I follow procedure, document, and make transparent the challenges considered by the Board. The future of GSA, as driven by its membership, a diverse group of scientists, educators, policymakers, and business leaders, will include communicating bidirectional initiatives within and external to the organization. GSA will remain an organization for mentoring diverse scholars in the citizenship of science while providing a network with collaboration, industry, integrity and growth. With attention to science and the needs of people aging across the country, and the world, GSA's future will hinge on its ability to remind members to reach people aging with greatest vulnerability.*

**Personal Statement:** *It is an honor to be nominated as secretary for The Gerontological Society of America (GSA). For a quarter century, I served GSA in various roles, starting as a GSA University ambassador where I undertook informing fellow students of service and membership opportunities. A job I have never ceased. In addition, I served in the role of committee member, then elected chair of the GSA Women's Committee. I also helped to establish and co-chair the Women's Issue's interest group. I served on awards and fellow's selection committees. I have published in GSA journals and attended conferences. I reviewed manuscripts and conference abstracts. I currently serve on the Innovation in Aging editorial board. I believe strongly in the opportunities GSA provides with a mission of integrity, inter-disciplinarity, and agility. I am an experienced leader, interdisciplinary scholar, and mentor. I have strong convictions that remain tied to diversity, inclusion, and research integrity. I stand by the need to investigate, learn, grow, and achieve within the unity of our shared dedication to gerontology. As secretary, I will join the leadership team to document decisions and provide transparency. It will be my honor to serve the membership and staff of the GSA.*

**Board of Directors Elections**  
**Member– Select One (Three-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**



**John A. Batsis, MD, FGSA**

John A. Batsis, MD, FGSA, is Associate Professor with Permanent Tenure at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with appointments in Geriatric Medicine and Nutrition. A geriatrician, obesity medicine diplomate, and NIH-funded clinician-investigator, he focuses on obesity, sarcopenia, physical function, body composition, and technology-enabled strategies to improve health and independence in older adults. His scholarship translates evidence into practical approaches for aging populations and reflects sustained commitment to mentoring future leaders in gerontology.

Dr. Batsis has been an active GSA member since completing geriatrics fellowship in 2008 and was named a GSA Fellow in 2018. His GSA service includes Co-Chair of the Obesity Interest Group, Expert Advisory Panel member for GSA's KAER Toolkit for the Management of Obesity in Older Adults, and an Annual Scientific Meeting symposium and abstract reviewer. Additional GSA service, he has been a member of the Health Sciences Research Committee, Annual Scientific Meeting Program Workgroup, Presidential Paper Workgroup, Health Sciences Award Committee, and Momentum Sessions moderator and discussant. He has also strengthened connections between GSA, The Obesity Society, and the European Association for the Study of Obesity, while advancing interdisciplinary aging science, education, practice, policy, and international collaboration.

**Candidate Statement:** *GSA's strength is its ability to bring diverse disciplines together to address the complex realities of aging. I am running for the Board because my career has been built at those intersections, as a clinician, educator, mentor, and investigator working to connect aging science with clinical care, education, practice, and policy. My work has focused on older adults whose needs do not fit neatly within one disease, discipline, or setting. That experience has taught me the importance of listening across perspectives, translating evidence responsibly, and building partnerships that move ideas into practice.*

*GSA's vision is powerful because it brings together members across disciplines, professions, career stages, and sectors. My experience connecting aging, obesity, and functional outcomes across GSA, The Obesity Society, and international partners has shown me how GSA can convene the right people around emerging issues before they become mainstream.*

*If elected, I would help GSA strengthen its national and international leadership by advancing interdisciplinary collaboration, elevating translational science, and ensuring member expertise informs education, practice, and policy. I would advocate for members, especially junior faculty and emerging leaders, navigating funding uncertainty, workforce pressures, and academic challenges. GSA must remain a trusted voice for aging science and its impact.*

**Personal Statement:** *My commitment to GSA is grounded in the mentorship, community, and professional growth it has provided me since fellowship. GSA is where I learned to think beyond a single disease, discipline, or outcome, and where my work in geriatrics, obesity, sarcopenia, body composition, and physical function found a broader aging-science home. What I have learned through GSA has strengthened what I share locally and through my own clinical, research, mentoring, and professional networks.*

*Much of my career has focused on bringing clinically important but underrecognized issues in aging into larger scientific conversations. Within GSA, I have contributed through the Annual Scientific Meeting, Health Sciences activities, Momentum Sessions, abstract and symposium review, the Obesity Interest Group, and initiatives linking aging science with practice and policy. My work with the KAER obesity toolkit reflects what I value most about GSA: transforming member expertise into practical resources that improve care for older adults.*

*If elected, I would help expand pathways for members whose work crosses boundaries: cross-section mentorship, early-career co-leadership, stronger interest group–section connections, support for first-time symposium organizers, and greater visibility for science that moves from discovery to practice, policy, and impact.*



### **Lewis A. Lipsitz, MD, MS, FGSA**

Dr. Lipsitz is a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and an internationally respected leader in the fields of internal medicine and geriatrics. He completed a fellowship in geriatric medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Hebrew SeniorLife from 1980-1983 and subsequently won a National Institute on Aging (NIA) Academic (K23) Award for his epidemiologic and physiologic studies of syncope and abnormal blood pressure regulation in older adults. Continuously funded by the NIA, his research has generated over 370 original articles. He directed the Boston Older Americans Independence Center, led a T32 training program and the Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine, and received two D.W. Reynolds Awards for geriatric education at HMS. Since 1980 Dr. Lipsitz has attended almost every annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). He served on numerous committees and was elected to Secretary of the Clinical Medicine Section in 1993 and Section Chair in 2001. Most recently, from 2020-2025, he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Gerontology Medical Sciences. In recognition of his many contributions and leadership in gerontology, he was awarded GSA's Freeman Award in 2010 and Donald P. Kent Award in 2018.

**Candidate Statement:** *Since starting Geriatric Fellowship at Harvard in 1980, I have been committed making a positive impact on the lives of older adults through research, patient care, teaching, and community service. Active membership in the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) has helped me achieve this. I am a Fellow of the GSA, former Chair of the Clinical Medicine Section, recent Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Gerontology Medical Sciences, and recipient of the Joseph T. Freeman and Donald P. Kent Awards. If elected to the Board, I will promote GSA's commitment to interdisciplinary research by providing more opportunities at national meetings to interact, consult, and socialize with professionals from different disciplines. To stimulate innovation and research translation, I will plan academic-industry forums for company leaders to interact with investigators. To foster early career development, I want to develop a mentor match-up program between trainees and senior faculty. To encourage international collaborations, cross-cultural understanding, and global problem-solving, I envision having interactive discussions in person and in social media on issues facing older adults. I would like to help GSA recruit more members from engineering; environmental, social, and computational sciences; and physical and occupational therapies, and promote research and training in these important fields.*

**Personal Statement:** *Ten years ago, a talented Master's Degree student from Boston University, who incidentally later became a cheerleader for the New England Patriots, applied to be a research assistant at our Institute. Without knowing much about this student, I invited her to join our research team. In retrospect, this was one of the most rewarding decisions I ever made for her, for me, and for the field of aging. Inspired by her experience, she subsequently pursued additional research, presented and published her work, supported homeless and underserved populations, obtained a medical degree, studied under GSA Board Chair Marilyn Gugliucci, received awards for humanism, completed a residency at Baystate Medical Center, became co-president of the local American Geriatrics Society Chapter, joined our Geriatrics Fellowship, and became an academic geriatrician. Experiences like this reinforced my commitment to mentoring and desire to advance our field by inspiring similar careers. I believe each new leader we train will in turn train many others they encounter, thus multiplying the impact of our teaching and research efforts. This exemplifies one of my many aspirations that resonate with the GSA mission – a mission I would be honored to promote as a member of its governing board.*

**Board of Directors Elections**  
**Member– Select One (Three-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**

**Dawn C. Carr, PhD MGS, FGSA**



For over two decades I have been a continuous and dedicated member of the GSA, and a BSS fellow since 2017. One of the many gifts that GSA provides is its role in facilitating mentorship of younger scholars, and literally hundreds of GSA members have helped me in small and large ways throughout my career. I have worked to share this gift by using the annual meeting as an opportunity to do the same for the next generation of scholars, thereby helping guide our field and shaping what it means to be a gerontologist today. Beyond mentorship, I have served GSA in numerous capacities, including chairing sessions and serving as discussant for many symposia, reviewing abstracts, serving on GSA journal editorial boards, and representing BSS on the Research,

Educational and Practice Committee, and serving on the BSS executive committee. I am now honored to be considered for membership on the GSA Board of Directors, giving back to this organization that has so generously supported my professional identity at all stages of my career.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am honored to have an opportunity to join the board of directors for the Gerontological Society of America. Since I started my graduate school journey in gerontology (2003), I have been a continuous member, serving the society through a variety of activities. Formally, I have served on committees such as the BSS Executive Committee and various mentoring activities. However, having attended every meeting since I first became a member, I particularly value opportunities to engage and support junior scholars and students, so they, too, have a chance to make GSA a key part of their primary identity as a researcher like I have, and dedicate their careers to the aging field. As a member of the board, I hope to help bolster GSA's efforts to develop specific, high impact goals that can improve the everyday lives of current and future older adults and their families. The value of higher education and science is being scrutinized with many questioning its value to society, and I believe the GSA can create new strategies for reaching the public and showcasing how the skills and abilities that aging researchers offer are essential to addressing a wide range of pressing social problems.*

**Personal Statement:** *Like many gerontologists, I was drawn to gerontology through my personal experiences with older adults and caregiving at a young age, learning firsthand about the challenges that come with aging, illness, and death, as well as the unique skills and abilities that older adults offer to society. I owe this privileged career to many generous mentors and colleagues from a wide variety of scientific fields who have supported me on my windy career path, with much of that mentorship occurring during or as a consequence of GSA annual meetings. I work to provide the same kinds of supports for students and those navigating earlier phases of their career, and each GSA, I set up numerous meetings with junior scholars who seek out mentorship, and connect with a growing number of scholars whose careers I have followed and supported in the small ways that I can. As my career continues to unfold, I am more staunchly committed to serving the collective field so we can create a pipeline of gerontological experts who can work together to have increasing impact on the wellbeing of older adults, their families, and their communities.*



### **Kara B. Dassel, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE**

Kara Dassel, Ph.D., FGSA, FAGHE, is a professor of Gerontology in the College of Nursing at the University of Utah. Dassel earned her doctorate in Gerontology from the University of Kentucky and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. Her research interests focus on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, caregiver health outcomes, and end-of-life planning, including medical aid in dying. Her research team created an advance care planning conversation guide, known as the LEAD Guide (Life-Planning in Early Alzheimer's and Other Dementias), which serves as the foundation for an NIA-funded clinical trial aimed at promoting engagement in advance care planning in community-based dyads. At the community level, she is an

active volunteer with the Utah Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, serving as a community educator, caregiver support group leader, and member of the professional advisory board.

**Candidate Statement:** *With more than 23 years of active involvement in the Gerontological Society of America, I have built my career around advancing interdisciplinary gerontology through leadership, collaboration, education, and research. A defining experience in my professional development was serving as Chair of the Emerging Scholars and Professionals Organization (ESPO) during my doctoral training. In this role, I contributed directly to GSA's mission, collaborated with scholars and professionals across disciplines, and developed lasting partnerships with GSA leadership and staff—experiences that inspired my continued service to the organization.*

*My leadership within GSA has included presidential appointments to the Program, Publications, & Products Committee and service as a GSA Representative to the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Council. Within the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), I have served as Chair of the Awards Committee, Chair of the Advancement Committee, and Program of Merit reviewer.*

*I remain deeply committed to supporting GSA's mission and growth and would be honored to serve as a Board Member, bringing a collaborative, interdisciplinary perspective shaped by years of engagement and service.*

**Personal Statement:** *Throughout my career, I have been deeply committed to cultivating the professional growth of junior scholars and creating opportunities for all trainees and colleagues to contribute meaningfully to the field of gerontology. For the past eight years, I have mentored pre-doctoral and postdoctoral trainees, viewing mentorship as both a privilege and a responsibility. In my lab, I foster an inclusive, collaborative environment where each team member's experiences, perspectives, and expertise are valued as essential to the success of our research and training mission.*

*My mentoring philosophy reflects the core values of the Gerontological Society of America—integrity, interdisciplinarity, and agility. I train scholars in rigorous methodological approaches while encouraging them to develop independent research questions and scholarly identities. I actively support trainees in disseminating their work through conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications and provide guidance on navigating academic, professional, and personal demands to achieve their long-term career goals.*

*Through mentorship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a commitment to ethical and inclusive research environments, I aim to advance GSA's mission by preparing the next generation of scholars to lead with innovation, integrity, and impact.*

### Board of Directors Elections

#### Member– Select One (Three-year term beginning January 1, 2027)



#### **Brian Downer, PhD, FACRM, FGSA**

Brian Downer, PhD, FACRM, FGSA, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health and Health Disparities at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), School of Public and Population Health, and holds the Lloyd and Sue Ann Hill Professorship in Healthy Aging. His research intersects three areas he has developed over his career. His doctoral research used data from the Seattle Longitudinal Study and Framingham Heart Study to identify modifiable risk factors for cognitive decline. After joining UTMB in 2014 as a T32 postdoctoral fellow, he used population-based cohort studies to investigate life-course determinants of dementia and cognitive decline, with a focus on Hispanic populations. He has since added a focus on health

services research, using Medicare claims files to examine disparities in post-acute care and healthcare utilization among older adults with and without dementia. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has been continuously funded by the NIA since 2019. He is currently the MPI of an NIA T32 on minority health and aging, co-leader of the Research Design, Analysis, and Data Management Core of UTMB's NIA-funded Pepper Center, and directs UTMB's PhD programs in Population Health Sciences and in Rehabilitation and Health Services Research.

**Candidate Statement:** *Serving as a board member would be a fulfilling way to give back to the organization that has profoundly influenced my career and identity as a gerontologist. If elected, I will work to advance GSA's mission in three ways. First, I will promote collaboration across GSA's sections by connecting members from the biological, behavioral, social, and health sciences. Second, I will support professional development by advocating for investment in mentorship and training at all career stages. Third, I will contribute to GSA's role in translating research into practices and policies that improve the lives of older adults and their families by creating opportunities for members to develop translational science skills. I have the skills and leadership experience to advance these priorities at GSA. I lead multidisciplinary teams conducting research that spans the behavioral, social, and health sciences. I contribute to several mentoring and training programs at UTMB for doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career faculty. Finally, as co-director of UTMB's Translational Research Scholars Program, supported by our Institute for Translational Science, I help train faculty in developing translational science skills. I would be honored to bring my experience to the GSA Board and help guide the organization's future.*

**Personal Statement:** *My passion for gerontology comes from growing up with my grandparents in a multigenerational household. My parents' careers made my family well-suited to care for my aging grandparents. By my sophomore year of college, three of my grandparents had passed away from complications of Alzheimer's disease. These life experiences inspired me to pursue an academic research career in gerontology. After receiving my bachelor's degree in psychology in 2010, I began a doctoral program in gerontology at the University of Kentucky. I joined GSA that same year, and it has been my professional home ever since. Over the past 15 years, I have attended and presented at every annual meeting, published in the GSA family of journals, and reviewed regularly for *The Gerontologist*, the *Journals of Gerontology Series A and B*, and the annual meeting program. I served as AGHE Student Committee Chair as a doctoral student, contributed to the GSA Working Group on *Exploring Future Options*, and have reviewed for the AGHE Program of Merit since 2020. As a mentor, I use my grant and endowment funds to sponsor students' GSA memberships, conference travel, and journal publication fees. It would be an honor to serve GSA and its members.*



### **Elham Mahmoudi, PhD, FGSA**

Dr. Elham Mahmoudi is an Associate Professor of Health Economics at the University of Michigan Medical School. Her research focuses on improving health outcomes and healthcare delivery among older adults, with particular emphasis on reducing disparities. Her work informs healthcare policy and delivery systems affecting older adults nationwide.

Dr. Mahmoudi has received funding from the National Institute on Aging, the Department of Defense, and several foundations, including the Alzheimer's Association. She has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications and led numerous interdisciplinary research collaborations

focused on healthcare access, quality, and equity for older adults.

In addition to her research, Dr. Mahmoudi is deeply committed to mentorship and professional service. Since 2014, she has mentored more than 45 undergraduate, graduate, and medical students, as well as residents and junior faculty from diverse backgrounds.

Dr. Mahmoudi has been an active member of the GSA since 2009. She serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* and previously served on the Publications and Products Committee leadership team, including as committee chair from 2022 to 2024. Her expertise in health policy, healthcare economics, and interdisciplinary aging research aligns strongly with GSA's mission of advancing innovation, equity, and leadership in aging.

**Candidate Statement:** *I have been an active member of the GSA since 2009, and I am committed to advancing GSA's mission through interdisciplinary collaboration, mentorship, and policy-relevant aging research. My work as a health economist focuses on improving healthcare delivery, reducing disparities, and advancing equitable outcomes for older adults, particularly those facing health and social disparities.*

*If elected, I would bring expertise in health policy, healthcare delivery systems, and interdisciplinary aging research to help advance GSA's leadership in science, education, and advocacy. I am particularly passionate about strengthening connections between health services research, clinical care, and policy to ensure that aging research translates into improved care and outcomes for older adults and their caregivers.*

*I am also deeply committed to mentorship and workforce development. I believe GSA plays a critical role in supporting early-career investigators, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and creating opportunities for diverse scholars and professionals in gerontology.*

*Through my prior leadership roles within GSA, including service on the Publications and Products Committee leadership team and as committee chair, I have developed a strong appreciation for the organization's impact and future potential. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to GSA's continued growth, innovation, and leadership in advancing equity in aging.*

**Personal Statement:** *I am seeking a position on the GSA Board to bring my expertise as a health economist to efforts focused on improving aging policy, research, and care delivery. My work focuses on improving outcomes for older adults, particularly individuals living with dementia who too often experience fragmented care and inequities shaped by race, income, and geography.*

*My commitment to gerontology began during my doctoral training at Wayne State University in Detroit, where I witnessed how social determinants shape access to care and health outcomes. My NIA T32 research assistantship through the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research launched my career and instilled in me a responsibility to create similar opportunities for others.*

*As a faculty member at the University of Michigan, I have led interdisciplinary collaborations that reinforced three leadership principles: steward resources responsibly, build partnerships through active listening, and engage stakeholders, including affected communities. These experiences strengthened my commitment to mentoring junior scholars, expanding opportunities, and supporting career development.*

*As a first-generation scholar from a modest background, I view mentorship and inclusive professional development as essential to the future of gerontology. As a GSA Board member, I would help ensure all members can contribute, lead, and thrive.*

**Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Representatives and Primary Section Members  
Vice Chair-Elect- Select One (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**



**Katarina Friberg-Felsted, PhD, MS, FGSA, FAGHE**

Dr. Katarina Friberg-Felsted is Professor at University of Utah (UU) College of Nursing Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program (UUGIP). Friberg-Felsted holds a PhD in Nursing Research, aging emphasis, and an MS in Gerontology. She is adjunct Professor in the College of Health Department of Health+Kinesiology. Named AGHE Rising Star in 2019, Friberg-Felsted is now Fellow in AGHE(2023), GSA(2024), and Academy of Health Science Educators(2022); NHCGNE Distinguished Educator(2022); and holds UU's Higher Education Teaching Specialist designation(2016).

Friberg-Felsted is Assistant Dean of the UUGIP, overseeing 350+ gerontology students/year, co-led the multiyear preparation/application for gerontology accreditation(AGEC 2025), and UU's Age-Friendly University designation(AFUGN 2023).

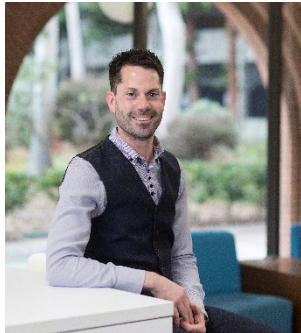
Between 2010-present, Friberg-Felsted served on AGHE's Gerontology & Geriatrics Education editorial board(2019-present); as annual conference peer reviewer(2013-2017); on Executive(student chair/designee, 2015-2017), Awards(chair, 205-2019), Program(co-chair, 2015-2016), Geriatric Committee(2013-2015), ESPO ambassador(2014-2016). Between 2007-present, on GSA's Age Inclusivity in Higher Education(AIHE) Interest Group(co-convenor, 2026-present), Fitness, Exercise & Wellness(FEW) Interest Group(founder, co-chair, 2022-2025); GSA Student Chapter Ad Hoc Committee(2021-present); founded UU's GSA Student Chapter(2024); was GSA ASM Interdisciplinary Aging Subcommittee Chair(2020); and GSA ASM abstract reviewer(2011-2015).

Friberg-Felsted's research includes gerontology in higher education, age inclusivity in higher education, and the Age-Friendly University and Age-Friendly Ecosystem. She received an inaugural seed grant from AGHE/GSA/AARP(2020).

**Candidate Statement:** *I am honored to be on the AGHE election slate. AGHE and GSA have shaped my gerontological career, and I am eager to give in new ways. The AGHE Vision Statement is my own professional vision, to improve the quality of life for older people; integrate age-related education, research, and practice into all levels of learning; foster healthy aging; and eliminate ageism. As Vice Chair-Elect, I will work to ensure that AGHE continues to lead, innovate, and advocate in gerontological education and curricular domains, responsive to institutional needs. I would continue strengthening the networking and resources that AGHE offers; we (AGHE) are known for our welcoming inclusiveness and meaningful mentoring.*

*We find ourselves in a challenging time in higher education, and this makes AGHE's leadership all the more relevant in proactive public engagement, meeting the challenges with creative and agile discoveries that build trust and further inspire and inform the work that surrounds us. AGHE is a change agent, with the opportunity to explore new directions to engage and influence our communities, bringing together students, educators, policy makers, and public officials. As a leader, I am committed to embracing and contributing to the relevant, urgent, and powerful work of AGHE.*

**Personal Statement:** *I have long been dedicated to GSA's mission of fostering excellence, innovation and collaboration to advance aging research, education, practice and policy. Much of my research, grants, scholarly articles, book chapters, and peer reviewed presentations have been a result of engagement in AGHE and GSA. Through the years, AGHE, and on a larger scale GSA, has uniquely embraced emerging scholars. I was mentored by distinguished, enthusiastic trailblazers in this organization, and it has been a pleasure to in turn cultivate the professional growth of junior scholars and colleagues, working with master's students to encourage them to present at the ASMs; collaborating with students and junior faculty on manuscripts, presentations, and awards; co-founding a variety of groups and chapters. I see students as future colleagues. this is a direct result of AGHE influence matured into my desire to facilitate others' successes. I received an inaugural seed grant from AGHE/GSA six years ago, and that led to additional grants, studies, university AFU designation, manuscripts, book chapters, peer-reviewed presentations, and invited lectures. Each was an opportunity to engage students, research assistants, junior faculty, and gerontology staff. Facilitating others' successes is my continued purpose, on my mind and near to my heart.*



### **Paul Nash, PhD, CPsychol, AFBPsS, FHEA, FGSA, FAGHE**

Paul Nash, PhD, is Professor at the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California. His work spans gerontological education, ageism, and health equity, with a particular focus on HIV and aging, minority aging, and social determinants of health. Dr. Nash has an extensive record of leadership across gerontology education and professional service, including within the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), and the American Society on Aging (ASA).

Within AGHE, he has played a central role in advancing educational standards and resources, including leading PRDW and chairing the revision of the AGHE gerontological competencies, now adopted by GSA. He has also led AGEC accreditation processes and monitoring across multiple cycles, supporting program quality and continuous improvement. Dr. Nash currently serves on the GSA Educational Experts Workgroup and the Minority Issues in Gerontology Advisory Panel, contributing to national conversations on equity and education.

In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of American Society on Ageing, where he leads educational and programmatic initiatives. Across these roles, Dr. Nash is committed to strengthening collaboration, advancing inclusive excellence, and supporting the next generation of gerontology educators and scholars.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am seeking the role of Vice-Chair Elect at a pivotal moment for gerontology education following my leadership of the AGHE Program Resource Development Workgroup. With the recent adoption of the updated Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education as a society-wide resource, an initiative I chaired in 2025, alongside the continued development of AGHE standards and guidelines, we have a unique opportunity to expand our collective impact across institutions, disciplines, and professional communities.*

*My platform centers on three priorities: advancing engagement, strengthening collaboration, and amplifying impact. First, I will work to increase member engagement (across member groups) with AGHE resources, particularly the competencies, by supporting their integration into curricula, training, and professional development. Second, I will foster stronger collaboration across GSA member groups and partner organizations to co-develop resources and share best practices that reflect the diversity and breadth of our field. Third, I will focus on amplifying the visibility and value of AGHE's work, ensuring our materials and initiatives reach educators, practitioners, and institutions more broadly.*

*By working collaboratively and strategically, we can build on our strong foundation to further support our members, elevate our field, and prepare the next generation of leaders in aging.*

**Personal Statement:** *My commitment to AGHE is rooted in a belief that gerontology education has the power to shape not only our field, but the experiences of aging across society. Throughout my career, I have sought to bridge research, education, and practice, and to create opportunities for collaboration that extend beyond institutional and disciplinary boundaries.*

*I have been privileged to contribute to AGHE through work on accreditation, competencies development, and program resources, and these experiences have reinforced the importance of collective effort in advancing our mission. I have ensured representation across member groups and other stakeholders, evidencing my ability to bring people together effectively. I am particularly motivated by the opportunity to build on this work, supporting members in meaningful ways, fostering connections across groups, and ensuring that our shared resources translate into real-world impact.*

*I value collaborative leadership, inclusivity, and engagement, and I am committed to listening to and working alongside our diverse membership. As Vice-Chair Elect, I would bring energy, experience, and a strong commitment to teamwork, with the goal of strengthening AGHE's role as a leader in gerontology education.*

*It would be an honor to serve the Academy and to contribute to its continued growth and success.*

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One  
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**



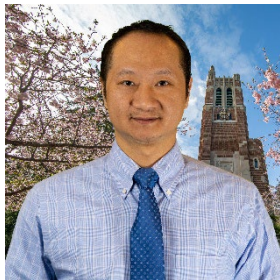
**Monique J. Brown, PhD, MPH, FGSA**

Dr. Monique J. Brown, PhD, MPH, FGSA is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Arnold School of Public Health (ASPH) at the University of South Carolina. She is also the Director of Wellness and Collective Engagement for ASPH. She received her PhD in Epidemiology from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, her Master of Public Health degree from the Brown University School of Public Health, and her Bachelor of Science degree from Bates College. Dr. Brown has been a GSA member since 2014 and was a Convener for the HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Interest Group from 2015-2019. She was the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) ESPO Junior and Senior Representative from 2015-2016, and 2016-2017. She has also chaired and organized several scientific sessions at GSA. Dr. Brown also served on the GSA Board of

Directors from 2021-2024, contributing to decision-making and strategic planning for GSA, and serving on the Finance Committee. Dr. Brown's research continues to be funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (2018-present). She conducts research on aging (including caregiving, cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias), HIV, the impact of trauma across the life course, and health disparities.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am truly honored to be a nominee for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Vice Chair-Elect position. My continued commitment to servant leadership differentiates me as a candidate. I was first asked to serve as a GSA leader as a Convener for the HIV, AIDS, and Older Adults Interest Group as a PhD student. Although this opportunity seemed like a monumental task, I was dedicated to serving in a topical space where I was committed to making a difference in aging research, practice, education, and advocacy. I served in this position for four years while also serving as the BSS ESPO Representative. These leadership positions prepared me well to serve on the GSA Board of Directors. At this point in my career, I am eagerly looking forward to serving as the next BSS Vice Chair-Elect. I will ensure that all voices contribute to the BSS Section initiatives, and that our annual program represents efforts in the field advancing aging research, practice, education, and advocacy. I envision the roles of GSA leadership, staff, and members as aging experts and advocates being expanded and serving as models for other communities focused on collaboration, growth and innovation in the field of aging.*

**Personal Statement:** *As an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Arnold School of Public Health (ASPH) at the University of South Carolina, I am committed to mentoring and facilitating the professional growth of students, and junior and senior colleagues. Indeed, majority of my mentees have been from underrepresented backgrounds. I endeavor to ensure that there is equitable access to opportunities for all to advance the field of aging through research and collaborative efforts. Currently, as the Director of Wellness and Collective Engagement for ASPH, I also ensure that access to wellness and engagement resources and opportunities are available to all faculty, staff and students within our institution. My research expertise and mentoring experience have contributed to GSA's mission through focusing on improving mental and physical health outcomes among older adults and providing guidance to students and junior scholars in the field, respectively. I also have experience serving GSA's community as the ESPO Junior and Senior Representative of the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section (2015-2017), Convener for the HIV, AIDS, and Older Adults Interest Group (2015-2019), and a member of the BSS Program Committee (2019). Most recently, I also served on the GSA Board of Directors (2021-2024).*



### **Fei Sun, PhD, FGSA**

Fei Sun, PhD, FGSA, is Professor and Coordinator of the Health and Aging Certificate Program in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. He was a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Scholar (2010–2012) and a Health and Aging Policy Fellow (2017–2018). His research focuses on cognitive health and dementia caregiving among underserved and culturally diverse older adult populations. Specifically, his scholarship emphasizes community-engaged and interdisciplinary approaches to improving the well-being of cognitively impaired older adults and family caregivers, particularly within Asian American and immigrant communities. Dr. Sun has published extensively in gerontology, social work, and psychogeriatrics and serves on the steering

committee of Michigan's statewide Dementia Coalition.

Dr. Sun has been an active member of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) since 2004. He served as co-convenor of the Chinese Aging Interest Group (2023–2025), participated in GSA journal editor search committees, and currently serves on GSA's Public Policy Advisory Panel. He is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* and sits on the editorial board of the *Gerontologist*. As a GSA Fellow, Dr. Sun is committed to fostering international collaboration, interdisciplinary aging scholarship, and the development of emerging scholars and practitioners in gerontology.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am honored to be nominated for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section Vice Chair-Elect and appreciate the opportunity to give back to the professional community that has shaped my career since joining GSA in 2004. As a social work scholar, editor, policy fellow, and community-engaged researcher, I bring interdisciplinary perspectives spanning dementia caregiving, cognitive health, health disparities, and culturally responsive intervention research with underserved and immigrant older adult populations.*

*If elected, I hope to strengthen mentorship, networking, and engagement opportunities for students, early-career scholars, international members, and historically underrepresented voices within BSS. I would like to expand mentoring and networking opportunities during and beyond GSA annual meetings, support travel and presentation opportunities for emerging scholars, and promote international collaboration and exchange. I am also invested in helping disseminate members' research through interdisciplinary exchange, and public and policy engagement initiatives.*

*As aging challenges become increasingly global in this era of rapid technological advancement, I believe BSS plays a critical role in safeguarding behavioral and social science rigor while translating evidence into meaningful impact on practice and communities. I also look forward to working with other GSA sections to foster a more inclusive, connected, and innovative aging research community.*

**Personal Statement:** *I believe that one meaningful way researchers contribute to systemic change is by mentoring and supporting the next generation of gerontological scholars and practitioners who will shape the future of aging services. As a GSA Fellow, I have actively supported students, junior scholars, and international colleagues through mentorship, collaborative research, symposium development, and editorial guidance.*

*As co-convenor of GSA's Chinese Aging Interest Group, I have helped create opportunities for international dialogue and exchange, including the East Meets West Symposia within GSA. Through my editorial leadership roles, including serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, I have worked to support emerging scholars by providing constructive mentorship throughout the publication process and encouraging diverse perspectives in gerontological scholarship.*

*If elected, I hope to continue expanding mentorship and networking opportunities for emerging scholars, particularly students, early-career investigators, international members, and historically underrepresented voices within BSS. I would also like to create more opportunities for senior scholars to connect with junior investigators through mentoring initiatives and collaboration. By fostering intergenerational collaboration and mutual support, I believe BSS can serve as a living example of an age-inclusive professional community while cultivating future leaders committed to improving the psychosocial well-being of older adults.*

**Biological Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One  
Vice Chair - Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**

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



**Institutional Experience and Disciplinary Breadth:** Twenty years at the University of Minnesota and 10 years at Boston University provide substantial insight and a wealth of experiences. Extensive involvement on University committees, both within and external to a Medical School, has strengthened 'hands-on' experiences within and between various disciplines, fostering a deep understanding of the academic enterprise across multiple domains.

**Professional Accomplishments:** Professional development in academic leadership (Academic Leadership Program-CIC, 2013–2014) complemented sustained leadership at national and local levels, including GSA Board of Directors (2021–2024), President of the American Aging Association (2013), Associate Editor of Journals of Gerontology–Biological Sciences (2006–present) and Aging Cell (2024–present), and membership on multiple GSA committees and APTA leadership roles. These positions reflect a well-established reputation and commitment to multidisciplinary collaboration.

**Research Recognition and Honors:** Research expertise is recognized through invitations to serve on NIH, NASA, and AFAR review panels for investigator-initiated proposals, career development awards, center awards, and fellowships. Additional honors include election as Chair of two Gordon Research Conferences—Biology of Aging (2008, Switzerland) and Oxidative Stress and Disease (2017, Italy)—and receipt of the American Aging Association Denham Harman Research Award (2022) and GSA Donald P. Kent Award (2025).

**Candidate Statement:** *As Vice Chair-Elect, my vision is to position the Biological Sciences Section as a catalytic leader in advancing healthspan research through rigorous investigation of fundamental aging biology. We must strengthen the bridge between mechanism-driven aging research and translational healthspan innovation. To succeed in a rapidly evolving landscape, we must be nimble and flexible, able to adapt strategies, see emerging opportunities, and navigate complexities with clarity and purpose.*

*I will prioritize three key initiatives:*

*(1) Elevate aging biology as foundational to healthspan research: Champion programming that showcases how mechanistic understanding of aging directly enables therapeutic development and functional enhancement.*

*(2) Invest in scientists across career stages: Create platforms and mentorship opportunities supporting both junior investigators and midcareer scientists navigating grant funding challenges and career transitions. By cultivating a thriving community at all levels, we strengthen our leadership pipeline and accelerate innovation.*

*(3) Foster bidirectional translation and emerging partnerships: Encourage collaborative research models between basic and clinical science, and leverage emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and strategic industry partnerships, to accelerate discovery and implementation of aging biology insights into healthspan-enhancing interventions.*

*I am committed to bringing strategic thinking, flexibility, and clear vision to advancing the Section's mission and improving human lives.*

**Personal Statement:** *It is with great honor and enthusiasm to be nominated to serve as Vice Chair-Elect of the Biological Sciences Section of GSA. Over 20+ years as a GSA member, including service as Secretary/Treasurer of the Biological Sciences Section, I developed a commitment to advancing healthspan research, ensuring life's added years are lived with vitality and independence. This goal is achievable only through rigorous investigation of the fundamental biology of aging. My research exemplifies this integrated approach. Grounded in aging biology, I bridge bench muscle physiology and clinical rehabilitation to understand cellular mechanisms underlying frailty and sarcopenia. By mechanistically interrogating aging hallmarks such as mitochondrial dysfunction and impaired proteostasis, my research team develops targeted interventions that directly enhance healthspan. Reverse-translating the human frailty phenotype to mice demonstrates how bidirectional science anchored in aging biology accelerates discovery and restores function. This commitment informs my mentorship. I encourage students and junior investigators to engage in GSA as contributors to a movement recognizing aging biology as the foundation for healthspan research. I am excited to serve the Biological Sciences Section as Vice Chair-Elect, bringing this integrated vision with professionalism, integrity, and dedication to catalyzing innovation at the intersection of aging biology and healthspan science.*

**Student members, Early-Career members, and Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Primary Section Members  
– Select One**

**Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**



**Taylor Jansen, PhD**

Dr. Jansen is a newly hired tenure track Assistant Professor of Health Sciences at Providence College. She earned a PhD in Gerontology from the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Boston in 2023, and a post-doctoral fellowship for the Healthy Aging Data Report lab from 2023-2025. Most recently, she completed the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research T32 Training Program at University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Her research uses spatial methodologies to assess critical social and structural determinants of health with a particular interest in rural communities.

Jansen has been an active Gerontological Society of America (GSA) member since 2018. She has most recently served as the Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) ESPO Junior Leader from 2024 to 2025 and currently serves on the 2026 Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) Awards review panel. During her time in GSA, she served on the ASM Working Group from 2020 to 2024, reviewed countless abstracts, organized and chaired multiple symposiums, and won two student poster awards.

**Candidate Statement:** *I joined GSA in 2018 at the start of my PhD in Gerontology at UMass Boston. Since then, I have completed my doctoral studies, two post-doctoral fellowships, and secured my first tenure-track position. Having successfully navigated each of these milestones, I am uniquely positioned to understand the needs, anxieties, and aspirations of emerging scholars — particularly in today's uncertain federal and scientific climate.*

*My GSA service spans multiple volunteer roles and working groups, most recently as SRPP Junior Leader (2024–2025). In that role, I identified a gap in mentorship opportunities, surveyed ESPO members to assess their needs, and designed a mini-mentoring program pairing ESPO members with SRPP fellows. The initiative launched successfully at the 2024 ASM in Seattle and was adopted society-wide at the 2025 ASM in Boston — an outcome I am proud to have catalyzed.*

*In ESPO leadership, I will continue listening to members, developing responsive programming, and advocating for resources that support emerging scholars. Looking ahead, I believe GSA must grow as both a scientific home and an advocacy force — one that actively protects aging research, champions evidence-based policy, and ensures the next generation of gerontologists has the community and support to thrive.*

**Personal Statement:** *My commitment to service and health equity is reflected in my research, teaching, and service. As a first-generation college student from rural Illinois, I understand firsthand the barriers that underrepresented scholars face in accessing and advancing within academia. This lived experience drives my commitment to cultivating the professional growth of junior colleagues from diverse backgrounds and ensuring equitable participation in advancing the field of gerontology. My research — focused on race-, place-, and rurality-based health disparities using spatial methodologies — directly advances GSA's mission to promote the well-being of older adults through rigorous, equity-centered science.*

*As an active member of GSA since 2018, I have participated in many volunteer roles like reviewing abstracts, awards, and organizing symposia. As ESPO/SRPP Junior Leader, I spearheaded a mini-mentoring pilot program between ESPO members and SRPP fellows at the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting, which helped facilitate a now society-wide program.*

*I am committed to growing in this leadership role personally and professionally. I will use this platform to advocate for the needs, wants, and concerns of the ESPO members to the greater society, and the Gerontological community.*



### Zhuoer Lin, PhD

Zhuoer Lin, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration at the University of Illinois Chicago. He received his PhD with distinction from Yale University in 2024. His research focuses on the life-course determinants of health and well-being in aging populations, with particular emphasis on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. His work has been published in leading journals, including *Nature Aging* and *The Journals of Gerontology*, and supported by the National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association.

Dr. Lin has been an active member of GSA since 2020 and has presented over 20 studies at GSA Annual Scientific Meetings. He currently serves on multiple GSA working groups and committees and has contributed more than 100 conference abstract and manuscript reviews for GSA conferences and journals. He also developed the Annual Scientific Meeting Prep Guide and related member resources in 2025 to support hundreds of junior scholars, particularly first-time attendees, in navigating GSA and building meaningful professional connections.

As an educator and mentor, Dr. Lin has mentored more than 30 trainees across undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral levels. He is committed to fostering inclusive mentorship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and professional development opportunities for the next generation of gerontology scholars.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am honored to run for ESPO Vice Chair-Elect because GSA has played a transformative role in my growth as a researcher, educator, and mentor. Having recently completed my PhD in 2024 and transitioned into a faculty position, I understand the opportunities and challenges that emerging scholars face across career stages.*

*Through my involvement in GSA programming, activities, mentorship resources, and scientific review, I have gained a strong understanding of how GSA and ESPO can better support junior scholars in building connections, navigating opportunities, and finding community within the field. In particular, developing the Annual Scientific Meeting Prep Guide reinforced how meaningful accessible guidance and peer support can be for early-career members.*

*If elected, I will focus on three priorities: (1) strengthening engagement across interdisciplinary backgrounds and career stages through accessible and collaborative opportunities within ESPO and GSA; (2) expanding mentorship opportunities that connect early-career scholars with peers and mentors; and (3) fostering a stronger sense of connection and belonging so emerging scholars feel welcomed and supported.*

*I see GSA continuing to grow as a connected community that supports collaboration, mentorship, and professional development. ESPO can help shape this future by strengthening networks, leadership opportunities, and interdisciplinary connections for all.*

**Personal Statement:** *As a recent PhD graduate and early-career faculty member, I experienced firsthand how mentorship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and professional networks within GSA can shape career development and foster a sense of belonging. These experiences motivated my commitment to supporting emerging scholars and contributing to a more connected and inclusive community.*

*Mentorship and interdisciplinary collaboration are central to both my professional and service activities. Through interdisciplinary research collaborations and trainee mentorship, I have mentored more than 30 undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral trainees from diverse backgrounds. I view mentorship not only as academic guidance, but also as fostering supportive and collaborative environments where emerging scholars feel welcomed, connected, and empowered to contribute their perspectives and ideas to the future of gerontology.*

*This commitment has guided my involvement within GSA. I developed the Annual Scientific Meeting Prep Guide and related resources to support first-time attendees and junior scholars in navigating the Society and building meaningful professional connections across disciplines. I have also contributed to GSA programming and working groups focused on member engagement and professional development. Through these efforts, I aim to continue advancing GSA's mission of fostering excellence, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration while helping amplify the voices and contributions of emerging scholars.*

**Health Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One  
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**



**Candace S. Brown, PhD, FGSA**

Candace S. Brown, PhD, FGSA, is an Associate Professor of Gerontology in the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte; and the Director of the Diversity in Aging and Competence in Exercise (DACE) Lab. She earned her PhD in Health-Related Science from Virginia Commonwealth University, MA in Gerontology at the University of Southern California, MEd in Adult Education at Cleveland State University and BS in Human Development and Family Studies at Pennsylvania State University. Her aging career began as a CNA and adjunct instructor, experiences that shaped her commitment to understanding physical activity, motivation, and the diversity of aging. Her academic life centers on promoting healthy longevity and addressing disparities in health. A member since 2008, Dr. Brown has served GSA as an abstract reviewer for conference proceedings, a manuscript reviewer for journals, and is an editorial board member for Gerontology and

Geriatrics Education. She served on the Membership Committee; Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Gerontology Advisory Panel, and as the HS representative to the previously known Task Force in Minority Issues in Gerontology. She holds leadership roles outside of GSA and believes her previous experience within the organization has prepared her for this position.

**Candidate Statement:** *I am honored to be nominated for HS Vice-Chair! Our section's strength lies in its breadth of scholars and practitioners from diverse backgrounds united by a commitment to promoting health, preventing disease, and improving care for older adults. I am continually inspired by how our individual passions multiply when we work together to advance the well being of older adults, including our future selves. As your elected HS Vice-Chair, I am ready to kindle for some, stoke for others, and reignite in many the fire we already possess to advance excellence in aging work. I will spend my tenure as an HS officer 1) strengthening team cohesion by actively listening to members' needs and ideas to advocate for meaningful section priorities; 2) connecting emerging scholars across international lines to build a more globally informed, collaborative, and inclusive health scientific community; and 3) collaborating with HS committee and panel representatives to advance innovative pathways for knowledge dissemination (e.g., podcasts) that broaden our reach and impact. I believe our advocacy, whether in classrooms, research, local communities, societies or national arenas, amplifies our collective impact. My long standing dedication to GSA and to older adults uniquely prepares me to serve in this role.*

**Personal Statement:** *My career environment focuses on empowering, supporting and inspiring others through mentorship. My first published work, "The Necessity of Mentorship among Gerontologists," was in Wykle and Gueldner's (2010) book. Ten years later, I wrote "The Gerontology Friendship Mentorship Team," in Gerontology and Geriatrics Education, as mentoring and friendship are part of my being. As ESPO Chair (2013-14) I worked to establish the first HS funding awards for travel because student budgets are challenging. Mentorship is not just 'top-down', so I helped develop 'The Mentoring Switch Project: Two Way Mentorship' workshop, where former GSA Presidents and leaders were "reverse" mentored by ESPO members. In academia I use innovative ways to cultivate 'aging experiences'. The World Café method allows conversations between students and older adults to discuss the meaning of aging outside the classroom. I am fortunate to advance research work with students as we learn about understudied aging concepts (e.g. menopause, Alzheimer's disease survival analysis). I also mentor high school students with an interest in aging because early experiences may pivot their trajectory into the gerontological sphere. Mentoring reminds me that when we, as a collective, offer empowerment, support, and inspiration individually, we can work successfully towards achieving goals.*



**Allison Lindauer, PhD, APRN, FGSA**

Dr. Lindauer, Associate Professor, Oregon Health & Science University, is a nurse practitioner and scientist. As lead of the Oregon Alzheimer's Disease Research Center's outreach core, she strives to include families across the Pacific Northwest in dementia care and research. Her NIA-funded research tests interventions for family caregivers.

Dr. Lindauer serves on the Executive Committee of ISAART's Technology and Dementia Professional Interest Area (2017-present) where she has served as program chair, chair, and now immediate past chair. She is active in spearheading the annual international conference and implementing educational webinars for members from over 40 countries. She also serves on the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration's Education Committee (2024-present). A GSA member since 2010, Dr. Lindauer presents her research at the annual meetings, reviews abstracts, and serves on the HS Fellowship Review Panel. She is a member of the Family Caregiver Interest Group.

Dr. Lindauer's dual roles as a clinician and scientist affords her a distinctive vantage point on the challenges facing gerontological specialists today, from research funding pressures to the clinical complexities introduced by emerging Alzheimer's therapeutics. Her interdisciplinary approach and sustained commitment to dementia care align closely with the mission of GSA and the HS Section.

**Candidate Statement:** *My nomination for the Health Sciences Vice-Chair-Elect position is both an honor and a commitment to dedicated service to the HS Section, its members, and the wider GSA mission.*

*An experienced leader, I serve on international and national executive committees that design educational programming, implement international conferences, moderate research-focused webinars, and engage in public-facing outreach. Truly "interdisciplinary," my work across organizations provides a unique perspective that positions me to dynamically and effectively serve on the HS Section.*

*As Vice-Chair Elect I will work with the HS Section to implement pragmatic, accessible opportunities to amplify the professional development of members. This includes promoting opportunities for members to exchange clinical expertise, share research strategies, and engage in mentorship. Recognizing cross-section collaboration as long-standing value of the GSA, I will support ongoing efforts to sustain and build on current strategies to facilitate these important intellectual exchanges.*

*In all my leadership activities with GSA and other organizations, I am an active leader. I attend meetings, contribute to decision-making, develop programing, and follow through on assignments. I recognize leadership as a serious commitment that requires my time, energy, and intellectual acumen.*

**Personal Statement:** *I have been a gerontologist my entire career. As a nurse practitioner, I work with families grappling with advancing dementia. This includes clinical conversations around current treatment options, non-pharmacologic therapies, and end-of-life care.*

*My NIA-funded research tests interventions for caregivers facing behavioral symptoms of dementia, including frontotemporal disorders. Growing up in a rural area, and a current farm owner myself, I recognize the challenges rural families face accessing dementia-focused care. Thus, my national research studies employ telehealth to allow caregivers from all over the US to engage in discovering new strategies to support them.*

*In my both my clinical care and research I recognize the power of interdisciplinary collaboration. My research team includes co-investigators who specialize in rehabilitation science, and my clinical work revolves around working with physicians, psychologists, naturopathic doctors and rehabilitation specialists. Thus, the HS Section multi-disciplinary focus aligns perfectly with my own values. If elected, I will leverage this long-standing value in my efforts to advance the activities of the section and its members.*

**Social Research, Policy, and Practice Primary Section Members – Select One  
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2027)**



**Allison Gibson, PhD, MSW, FGSA**

Dr. Allison Gibson is an Associate Professor at the Saint Louis University School of Social Work whose scholarship emphasizes improving quality of life and support systems for older adults with cognitive impairment and their family caregivers, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and has been supported by organizations including the National Institute on Aging and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Gibson is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and has been an active member since 2010, contributing to the organization through leadership, mentorship, abstract review, journal review, awards review, and membership engagement within the Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section. She has been a

co-convener for the GSA Disasters and Older Adults special interest group (2016-2018 and 2025-2027) and the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia special interest group (2019-2022). Dr. Gibson is also active with the Association of Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW), the Aging Research, Education, Advocacy, and Practice, Special interest Group with the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), and the Partnering with Research Participants Professional Interest Area with the Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART).

**Candidate Statement:** *I am honored to be considered for a leadership role within the Gerontological Society of America at a critical moment for the field of aging in the United States. As a GSA Fellow and engaged member, I have valued opportunities to contribute through service within the Society, which has played a meaningful role in my professional growth and in expanding my network of interdisciplinary scholars and collaborators. I am seeking this role because I believe GSA must continue to be a leading voice in addressing the growing challenges facing older adults and the professionals who support them. Both globally and nationally, we are experiencing a rapidly aging population alongside workforce shortages, strained caregiving systems, increasing behavioral health needs, and threats to research, workforce, and education infrastructure. My goal is to help advance initiatives that strengthen the GSA membership and community, promote geriatric workforce education, and expand support for aging-related research, practice, and policy. Looking ahead, I see GSA continuing to grow as a national and global leader that not only advances aging science, but also advocates for the workforce, funding, and interdisciplinary partnerships necessary to support older adults and the systems that serve them.*

**Personal Statement:** *Throughout my career, I have been committed to cultivating the growth of students, junior scholars, and interdisciplinary professionals interested in aging research, practice, and policy. As a gerontological social work educator, researcher, and clinician, I have mentored students through research, clinical training, teaching, and other professional development opportunities. I strongly believe that strengthening the future of gerontology requires intentional mentorship, accessible pathways into leadership, and supportive professional networks that encourage scholars from varied disciplines, diverse backgrounds, and lived experiences to contribute to the field.*

*My research and professional work broadly focus on improving the well-being of older adults, family caregivers, and communities through applied, practice-informed scholarship. Across my work, I have emphasized the importance of interprofessional collaboration, workforce development, behavioral health integration, and translating research into meaningful practice and policy change. Through my involvement in the Gerontological Society of America, I have valued opportunities to engage with colleagues across career stages and professional backgrounds who share a commitment to improving the lives of older adults. Moving forward, I hope to continue supporting initiatives that foster mentorship, interdisciplinary partnerships, and meaningful opportunities for emerging professionals to engage in innovative approaches to addressing the evolving needs of our aging society.*



### **Jarmin C. Yeh, PhD, MPH, MSSW**

Jarmin Yeh, PhD, MPH, MSSW, is an Associate Professor at UCSF's Institute for Health & Aging, with affiliate appointments at the UCSF Healthforce Center, Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies, and UCSF Bioethics. They also teach professionals in the Master of Science in Healthcare and Interdisciplinary Leadership Program. In 2024, Dr. Yeh founded the Community Action Research in Gerontology (CARING) Lab and co-directs the Emancipatory Sciences Lab, launched in 2021.

A GSA member since 2012, Dr. Yeh has been an active contributor to the organization, co-convening the Environmental Gerontology Interest Group, reviewing Annual Conference abstracts, and serving on the Social Research, Policy & Practice Program Decision Committee. In 2022, they received GSA's Early Career Diversity Fellowship Award.

Beyond academia, Dr. Yeh's civic and organizational leadership are equally robust. They currently chair the Metta Fund Board of Directors, serve as President of the Community Living Campaign Board, represent the UC System on the California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics Board, and advise the Future of Medi-Cal Commission.

Dr. Yeh brings the same commitment to service and equity to GSA's leadership, and looks forward to applying their expertise in gerontology, health policy, and community-engaged research to advance the organization's mission.

**Candidate Statement:** *GSA has been my professional home for over fourteen years, and serving as an SRPP officer would be a meaningful way to give back to a community that has shaped my thinking and my work.*

*What differentiates me is the breadth of my background, spanning social work, public health, and sociology through a critical gerontology lens, alongside two decades of practice across local government, nonprofits, academia, and philanthropy. That range has deepened my appreciation for what makes SRPP distinctive, its transdisciplinary capacity to hold researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in conversation toward more equitable gerontological futures.*

*As an officer, I would ensure SRPP reflects the richness of our membership's methodological diversity, theoretical perspectives, career stages, and lived experiences. I am committed to mentoring early-career scholars, expanding participation among underrepresented groups, and fostering cross-sectoral collaborations that make our work more relevant and durable.*

*I also believe GSA's role must grow bolder. As political pressures erode public trust in expertise, the aging field needs a society willing to champion rigorous, socially grounded research and model inclusive, evidence-based leadership at scale. SRPP is positioned to lead that charge. I care deeply about this section and this society. It would be a privilege to serve.*

**Personal Statement:** *My path into gerontology began in a policy office advocating for "sandwich generation" caregivers, leading me to a national social work workforce initiative and, ultimately, to doctoral training under Dr. Carroll L. Estes, where I developed a gerontological imagination: understanding how history, power, and social structure shape individual lives. As a child of immigrants who witnessed my family navigate caregiving across cultures without adequate support, this framework anchors my scholarship on age-friendly communities, health systems, and the workforce serving older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers.*

*Cultivating the next generation of scholars is central to my practice. I mentor emerging leaders of color through American Society on Aging's RISE program and co-direct two research labs in collaboration with doctoral scholars, postdocs, and community partners across disciplines. This work reflects my commitment to ensuring early-career scholars have genuine pathways to leadership in our field.*

*As Vice Chair Elect, I will use SRPP as a bridge, drawing scholars from ESPO, AGHE, and across GSA sections into policy conversations they're too often excluded from, and insisting community partners co-shape our agenda, linking conference cities to local communities through reciprocal service and learning to advance a field that reflects those we serve.*