Building the Future of Gerontology Today: The Importance of International Networking and Collaboration

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International networking and collaboration involves working jointly to exchange information and services across organizations, groups, and individuals at the international level. The age old adage two heads are better than one stands true, as individuals often do not have the level of knowledge and experience that a group of people have.

Across fields, much work is being done by interdisciplinary teams. As multi-national organizations, research collaboratives, and NGOs expand, they involve a diverse range of individuals from multiple sectors and backgrounds. They cross local, regional, and national boundaries increasing demand for persons skilled in effective networking and collaboration

Application to Gerontology

At its foundation, gerontology is multi-disciplinary; drawing together subfields with complimentary perspectives on aging from biology and health to psychology and public policy. Gerontology naturally brings together multiple viewpoints, expertise, and services. With the aging of the population in many nations, gerontology’s multi-disciplinary foundation facilitates endless opportunities for knowledge dissemination using a global context

What is in it for me?

International networks expand awareness of and accessibility to opportunities and knowledge that may not be available through local or regional networks. International networking and collaboration allows you to expand your circle by meeting people with much larger and more diverse networks than your own. This may provide opportunities to learn from others who navigated similar paths and may help you prepare for and avoid common pitfalls.

International networking and collaboration help to develop cross-cultural competencies in interacting with people and groups from other areas of the world – skills employers take note of and value.

To improve and further your career in aging, it is critical to value existing relationships while continuing to expand and build other meaningful connections. Volunteer work, internships, online forum participation, and joining regional/national/international organizations are great ways to broaden your network.

International Networking and Collaboration at Work

The Gerontological Society of America’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) and the Canadian Association on Gerontology’s Student Connection (SC-CÉ) have started a new
partnership. Our common goal is to facilitate international exchange of knowledge and practices between our organizations.

This year, ESPO and SC-CÉ executive members began a collaborative process to create new opportunities and forge stronger links. In the coming months and years we aim to extend opportunities to share and disseminate knowledge.

Releasing this co-authored newsletter marks our first step in expressing our shared vision through an international collaborative process. We welcome you to participate in the international collaboration and networking process with us by getting involved. Please visit our webpages and various social media outlets:

**ESPO**
- [www.geron.org/espo](http://www.geron.org/espo)
- [@GSA_ESPO](http://www.geron.org/espo)
- [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gsa-espo)
- [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GSAEmergingSCH)
- [Email](mailto:espo@geron.org)

**SC-CÉ**
- [www.cagacg.ca](http://www.cagacg.ca)
- [@SC_CAG](http://www.cagacg.ca)
- [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cag-student-connection)

It's time to get global and join the conversation!

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Chair  
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