This document contains biographical sketches and candidate statements for all candidates running for office in the following categories:

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

Who is entitled to vote?

- All members of The Gerontological Society of America who have designated a section are entitled to vote for candidates of that section and for society-wide candidates.
- Members who have not affiliated with a section are entitled to vote for society-wide candidates.

GSA Mission Statement:

The mission of the Society is to:

1) Promote the conduct of multi- and interdisciplinary research in aging by expanding the quantity of gerontological research and by increasing its funding resources.

2) Disseminate gerontological research knowledge to researchers, to practitioners, and to decision and opinion makers.

3) Promote, support, and advocate for aging education, and education and training in higher education.
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Terri Harvath, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA

Terri Harvath is Executive Associate Dean at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. She also serves as the founding director of the school’s Family Caregiving Institute, which launched in 2017 to advance research, education and policy to support caregivers. An internationally recognized expert in gerontological nursing and nursing education, Harvath focuses her scholarship on improving the health and healthcare for frail older adults and their family caregivers. Prior to her UC Davis appointment, Harvath was the director of the Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence and the Advanced Practice Gerontological Nursing Program at Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing, where she was also a professor. Harvath has been a member of GSA since 1987. She was elected as the Chair of the Health Sciences section in 2016 and is currently the immediate past chair. She earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in nursing from Oregon Health & Science University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

I have been a member of GSA for over 35 years and have always appreciated that it has consistently provided an interprofessional and interdisciplinary exploration of issues germane to the health and health care of older adults. I am honored to be nominated and am eager to continue serving an organization I value and respect for its important contributions to gerontology and geriatrics. During the past year, as Health Sciences Section Chair, I served on the Governance Task Force that resulted in the most recent change to our bylaws. Through that process, I had the opportunity to hear how important it is to our members that we retain the valuable strengths in research, education and clinical practice that the different sections bring to the GSA. As a member of your Board, I will work with colleagues from all the sections to ensure that we continue to have strong representation of the different perspectives and priorities that reflect our unique disciplinary backgrounds while leveraging that strength to promote the GSA and the important work of our members.

James S. Powers, MD, FGSA

James S. Powers, MD, received a BA cum laude from Wesleyan University (CT) and MD with Distinction in Research from the University of Rochester (NY) followed by residency in Internal Medicine at Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University Hospitals. He is the recipient of the 2009 Marsha Goodwin-Beck VA Interdisciplinary Award for Excellence in Geriatric Clinical Care Delivery, and is board certified in Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care.

Dr. Powers is Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine where he has led the effort to develop a Geriatrics program. Author of 110 papers, books, and book chapters, he has mentored over 2200 trainees and holds Fellowship in the American College of Physicians, American College of Nutrition, American Geriatrics Society, Gerontological Society of America, and the Royal Society of Medicine. He serves as Associate Clinical Director for the VA Tennessee Valley Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center, and is the founding Program Director for the Vanderbilt Geriatric Fellowship.

Dr. Powers’ research interests include educational outcome evaluation, aging body composition, and models of geriatric care and he leads numerous studies focused on falls prevention, caregiver support, treatment of agitated dementia, and geriatric models of care and health systems improvement.

GSA is the premier gerontology scientific organization. I have been a member since 1993 and advanced to fellowship in 2000. I have presented my work at GSA and been privileged to publish in both The Journal of Gerontology; Medical Sciences and The Gerontologist. As a member of the HS section, I previously coordinated the mentorship program for students and junior faculty (2005-6), and served as Fellowship Committee Chair (2006), HSS representative to the Humanities and Arts Committee (2009-15), and GSA Finance Committee member and HS Secretary (2014-19).

I bring a 35-year experience in Geriatric program development at both university and VA as well as coordination of institutional relationships to the office. It is my firm belief that the field of Gerontology is rapidly increasing in importance relevant to the aging of the population and increasing interest in healthcare and social security as services which are driving growing sectors of the economy.

I am honored to be nominated and pledge to be responsive to the membership and contribute to the effective functioning of the Society.
Kevin E. Cahill, PhD

Kevin E. Cahill, PhD is a research economist at the Center on Aging & Work at Boston College and a partner and senior economist at ECONorthwest, an economics and public policy firm based in Portland, Oregon. Kevin writes on topics related to applied microeconomics, with a focus on the economics of aging and labor market transitions later in life. His current projects examine patterns of labor force withdrawal—including bridge job employment, phased retirement, and reentry—retirement income, and occupational changes later in life. Kevin actively publishes in academic journals and presents his research at conferences throughout the country.

Kevin has served on GSA’s finance committee and investment committee as a presidential appointee since 2015. He also serves as a reviewer and editorial board member for several academic journals. Earlier in his career, Kevin was an economist at Abt Associates in Cambridge, MA and Analysis Group in Boston, and served as the associate director for research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. He earned his BA in mathematics and economics (with honors) from Rutgers College and his MA and PhD in economics from Boston College.

What I value most about GSA is its interdisciplinary focus, and it will be my goal as a Board Member to continue to promote the exchange of ideas from the many backgrounds of GSA’s members. My own research background and training is in the field of economics. The economist’s lens helps inform public policy through cost-benefit analysis and the evaluation of incentives, but economics is just one perspective. Over the years as a member of the interdisciplinary Center on Aging & Work at Boston College since 2005 and as a partner at ECONorthwest, I have been fortunate to work with researchers in a variety of fields, including psychology, sociology, and social work. These different perspectives have all contributed to the valuable research we have produced over the years.

I promise to be an engaged Board Member and contribute meaningfully to GSA Board discussions. As a member of the GSA finance committee, I prepare for meetings in advance and raise questions whenever a pertinent topic requires further discussion. More generally, as a Board Member I will continue to support GSA’s community outreach efforts and activities. I am very excited about the possibility of serving as a GSA Board Member.

Karen A. Roberto, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE

Karen Roberto, Virginia Tech, is University Distinguished Professor, Director of the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment, and Senior Fellow at the Center for Gerontology. She also holds appointments in Internal Medicine and Psychiatry/Behavioral Medicine at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Her research focuses on health and social support, including studies of rural older women, family relationships/caregiving, and elder abuse. Roberto has published over 200 scholarly articles/chapters and has edited/authored 14 books. A GSA member since 1980 and Fellow of BSS (1992; Distinguished Mentor Award 2012), she has served on editorial boards for Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences (2006-2008), The Gerontologist (2012-present), and Innovation in Aging (2017-present). Her GSA service also includes member of the Fellowship Committee (2005-2006), Task Force/Committee on Mentoring (2012-2015), and IAGG North American Regional Committee (2016-present). Within BSS she served as Secretary/Treasurer (1999-2002), Chair-Elect/Chair/Past-Chair (2008-2011), Fellowship Committee Chair-Elect/Chair/Past-Chair (2005-2007), and Awards Committee Member (2010-2013). Roberto is a Charter Fellow of AGHE (1997) and served as University Representative (1984-2016), Board of Directors Member (1992-1994), Program of Merit Reviewer (1999-2011), and Gerontology and Geriatrics Education Editorial Board Member (2006-2014). A Fellow of the American Psychological Association (2014), Roberto served on the Committee on Aging (2012-2014).

I am deeply honored to be a nominee for GSA Board Member. This is an exciting time for GSA as it takes a bold step forward to implement a new governance structure that will enhance its nimbleness to effectively meet and address the needs of its members in a world that is rapidly changing. My background and leadership experience within GSA and beyond provide me the necessary knowledge, skills, and insight to help GSA move forward in a positive direction.

My career has been strongly influenced by my involvement in GSA. Having opportunities to work with individuals from a variety of disciplines and from around the globe has broadened my understanding of aging and deepened my appreciation of multiple theoretical and conceptual lenses and methodological approaches to address aging issues. I will bring a collaborative spirit to the leadership team and help facilitate the growth of inter- and transdisciplinary scholarship as well as bring cohesiveness to GSA activities. I believe it is important for organizational leaders to provide positive synergy necessary to develop internal and external connections that advance the mission of GSA and empower members to be innovative as they unravel and address the complexities of aging.
Nancy P. Kropf, PhD, FGSA

Nancy Kropf has held leadership positions in higher education and also in professional activities. In her current role within her university, she serves as Dean of Perimeter College which is a college of 20,000 students at Georgia State University (GSU). Previously, she was Dean of the Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions (2015-2019), and Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives in Policy Studies (2013-2015) within GSU. At her previous university, she was Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (1996-2000), Associate Vice President for Instruction (2003-2004), and Interim Dean of Social Work (2004-2005). These various roles developed her skills in program implementation and evaluation, budgeting, personnel management, and strategic planning.

Nancy has also held professional leadership roles. She served as Treasurer of GSA from 2010-2013, and recently chaired the Governance Task Force on Strategic Planning for the organization (2017-2018). She currently serves on the Leadership Council of the Council on Social Work Education. Previously, she was the President of the Association of Gerontological Education - Social Work (AGE – SW) from 2000-2003. She was also in the initial cohort of the John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Scholars (1999-2001). She is grateful to have had these national leadership opportunities.

I was honored to be part of the recent Strategic Planning process within GSA. The opportunity gave me the chance to work with other members and staff who were motivated to examine the structure of the organization and work to create greater efficiency and foster innovation. At the same time, this group embraced the characteristics that have defined GSA and worked to preserve these qualities within a new structure. The process was exciting, and I would be honored to serve on the Board to work on the next steps of development.

My background provides me with solid experience to serve on the Board. I have been a longstanding member and Fellow of GSA, and my time as Treasurer provided me with an opportunity to understand resources within the organization. Additionally, my academic leadership roles position me to appreciate issues related to personnel management and program development.

When I started my doctoral studies in 1985, I was the only student in my program that was specializing in aging. Since then, I have continued my research, scholarship and instruction in areas of later adulthood. I joined GSA early in my career, and would be honored to serve as a Board member.

Sheryl Zimmerman, PhD, FGSA

Sheryl Zimmerman, PhD, is a University Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Public Health, and for more than 20 years has been codirector of the Program on Aging, Disability, and Long-Term Care, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. An internationally recognized leader in research related to long-term services and supports, she has been funded by the NIH throughout her career; led more than 70 funded research projects; published 350 peer-reviewed articles; and currently is co-editor-in-chief of JAMDA - the Journal of the Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. Within the GSA, Dr. Zimmerman chaired the Social Research, Practice, and Policy Section (2014-2017, including planning the annual meeting); served on the Fellow, Policy, Executive, and Governance Committees (2007-2018); and launched and for many years co-convened the Assisted Living Interest Group (2000-2015). She is broadly networked and served/serves on the board of directors of an adult day center, an assisted living organization (CCAL), the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE), and AMDA, as well as on the advisory board for numerous organizations. In addition, she works closely with the Alzheimer’s Association on many of their research and translational efforts.

As reflected in my biography, I have served GSA in diverse leadership roles for 20 years, bringing expertise in both health and social sciences. Through this service, I learned what functions especially well in our organization and what functions less well – and I am confident that with proper execution, GSA’s restructured governance can overcome current limitations. I see the launch of our revised governance (effective 2020) a critical effort toward that end, and so I am passionate to serve on the board at this moment in time. My personal agenda is to assure that GSA is optimally effective in promoting, translating, and disseminating basic and applied research to inform and improve care and policies that maximize the well-being of older adults and those who provide their care. As a member of the board, I will help GSA achieve its mission by working together to craft strategic goals, objectives, and metrics important to success; strive to increase stable sources of revenue; become more visionary in community outreach; support additional policies, procedures, and activities that convey value to GSA members; and assure that the rollout of GSA’s restructured governance is in keeping with the best interest of the membership.
Holly M. Brown-Borg, PhD, FGSA

Holly Brown-Borg is a Professor of Physiology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She is a Fellow of the GSA, American Aging Association and American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has served on various committees within GSA over the past 15 years with current service as the Co-Chair of the Program Committee. Most recently she served on the Governance Structure Task Force, Working Group Exploring Future Options, JGBS Editor Search Committee, Bylaws Working Group, and an IAGG/GSA sessioning committee. In the Biological Sciences section, she served as Chair from 2010-2011, Chair-Elect, BS Executive Committee for eight years, Nominating and Membership Committees, Nathan Shock New Investigator Award Committee, George Sacher and Austin Bloch Award Committees, and also served on the Research Education and Practice Committee for 5 years. For the American Federation for Aging Research, she has served as the Chair of the Research Committee, Chair of the Postdoctoral Research Selection Committee, and on the Board of Directors. For the American Aging Association, she has served as President, the Board of Directors for 12 years, and currently Chairs the Awards Committee, and serves on the Membership Committee.

I have a long history of service for the GSA both within the section of Biological Sciences as well as on various GSA committees. I have tried to advocate for the Biological Sciences section as we are by far, the smallest discipline in the GSA. I have also tried to encourage and promote recognition of junior investigators by having them co-chair or chair BS symposia, supporting them through ESPO and including them in informal activities around the meeting and beyond. The field of aging is dynamic and we need to constantly adapt to change that includes expanding technologies and insight that lead to improvements in health. I think the GSA is uniquely situated to respond to rapid change by bringing multiple disciplines together and providing a unique, global view of aging research to the field and to the public through the annual meeting and wide-ranging programs.

LaDora V. Thompson, PhD, PT, FGSA

Twenty years at University of Minnesota and three years at Boston University provide insight as well as a wealth of experiences. Extensive involvement on University committees, within and external to a Medical School, strengthens ‘hands-on’ experiences within and between a funded Rockefeller Humanities Fellow. Bradley’s research (e.g., Academic Leadership Program-CIC, 2013-2014) provides best practices and vital connections needed for networking, especially when outside viewpoints are sought. Professional experiences in leadership positions, both local and national (e.g., elected President of the American Aging Association 2013, Fellow 2016; Fellow of GSA 2011; elected Treasurer/Secretary of the Biological Sciences Section of GSA 2011-2013; Associated Editor of Journals of Gerontology-Biological Sciences 2006-present, Physical Therapy Journal 2017-present, and Exercise and Sports Sciences Review 2003-2015; elected Secretary of APTA RIPPT 2017-present; GSA Public Policy 2000-2003; GSA REP 2010-2011; GSA Membership 2012-2013) are evidence of qualifications, well-established reputation, and multidisciplinary interactions.

Research expertise is recognized by invitations to serve on research review panels (e.g., NIH, NASA, AFAR) for investigator-initiated research proposals, career development awards, center awards, program projects and fellowships reflects a commitment to research. Nomination and elected to Chair two Gordon Research Conferences: Biology of Aging 2008 Switzerland and Oxidative Stress and Disease 2017 Italy.

It is with great honor and enthusiasm to be nominated to serve on the new Board of Directors for GSA. As a member of GSA for over 20+ years, involved in many of the leadership positions, mentored students and junior investigators to engage in the activities supported by GSA and to commit attendance at the Annual Scientific Meetings, I gained insights and a deep understanding of the many challenges and opportunities that our organization and membership deal with on an ongoing basis. As a successful clinician scientist my research crosses several disciplines, from basic bench muscle physiology to clinical rehabilitation, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the various sectors to produce impactful results and successfully move the separate fields forward together (e.g., reverse-translated the human frailty phenotype assessment tool to mice.) I am excited to be part of this innovative organizational change within GSA, in which the Board of Directors strives to speak with ONE VOICE. I bring my experiences and a deep commitment to unify the various sectors within GSA to create a ‘dynamic whole’ organization. This Board of Directors assures immediate continuity for GSA and its goals. I am ready for this challenge!
Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE

Marilyn R. Gugliucci, MA, PhD, is a Professor, Director of Geriatrics Education and Research, and Founding Director of U-ExCEL (UNE—Exercise and Conditioning for Easier Living) an older adult Fitness/Wellness Program at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her qualitative ethnographic/autobiographic Learning by Living Research Projects offer two tracks: (1) Nursing Home Immersion that “admits” medical students into nursing homes to live the life of an elder resident for 2-weeks; and (2) 48 Hour Hospice Home Immersion that immerses pairs of medical students into an 18 bed inpatient acute-care hospice home to conduct patient care, family support, and post-mortem care. Her funded research is on older adult falls and propensity.

Dr. Gugliucci is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, National Association of Osteopathic Medical Educators, American Geriatrics Society, and the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education. She serves on national and state boards and committees, is the former Chair for the Gerontological Society of America Health Sciences Section (2012-2013) and former AGHE President (2008-2010). Her expertise and passion in the field of aging has resulted in numerous publications, national and international presentations, and awards for outstanding contributions to the field of aging. Faculty Webpage: https://www.une.edu/people/marilyn-gugliucci

George A. Kuchel, MD, FGSA, AGSF

Dr. George Kuchel is a geriatrician and gerontologist with extensive research, clinical, administrative and educational experience.

Dr. Kuchel is Director of the UConn Center on Aging at the University of Connecticut in Farmington CT where he holds the Travelers Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology. He was born in Czechoslovakia, grew up in Canada, obtained his medical degree from McGill University and was a resident in Internal Medicine at the Montreal General Hospital. He then completed fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology and the Kaiser Faculty Development Program at Harvard. His research career began with postdoctoral research fellowships in the neurobiology of aging at Harvard and Mount Sinai, followed by a faculty position at McGill. Dr. Kuchel has held his current position since 2001.

Dr. Kuchel’s research has been highly multidisciplinary focusing on translational efforts to discover and validate novel approaches and interventions to maintaining health and function in late life by targeting underlying mechanisms involved in common geriatric syndromes and chronic diseases including those shared with biological aging. He is supported through a variety of grants from NIH, PCORI and CMS.

Dr. Kuchel is a GSA fellow and has been an active GSA member since 1985.

My interest in becoming a GSA Board member comes from a desire to try and make a difference at a critical time for our field. In an age of increasing subspecialization and fragmentation of all aspects of our society, many are discovering terms and concepts such as “multidisciplinary” and “interdisciplinary”. We can all take great pride in the fact that for nearly eight decades the GSA has functioned as a multidisciplinary society bringing together scientists, scholars and professionals from diverse disciplines who would be unlikely to interact with each other under normal circumstances.

While we all participate in other professional societies, GSA is the only organization capable of providing leadership in aging research, care and advocacy spanning the spectrum of perspectives from molecules and cells to individuals, the family, society and all the way to health policy. However, for GSA to reach its true potential it needs to start with efforts at promoting a stronger dialogue, integration and coordination of activities between its four different sections.

I have been a member of the Health Sciences Section since 1985. Nevertheless, my own research, educational and administrative activities have always included close interactions and many collaborations with members of all GSA sections.
My contribution to this role is the focus on long-term services and supports (LTSS) policy, engaging state and local stakeholders, and health equity. My work aims to eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in access to and use of LTSS and improve quality of life for older adults. My work is conceptually-guided, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and team-based. I have a broad network of community collaborators and partners, including consumer groups, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and various health care organizations. My community-engaged work and policy focus uniquely position me to serve as the GSA Board member.

I have been a GSA member since 2004 and was elected fellow in 2015. I have benefited from mentorship and leadership of senior GSA members and as a mid-career faculty want to give back and use my skills to support all GSA members.

My goals, if elected, would be to focus on dissemination and policy-relevance of our findings, communication for diverse stakeholders, and ensuring the focus on health equity in all efforts. GSA has to maintain meaningful dissemination and continued engagement with its members to have an active presence for the aging community in the future.
Lisa A. Juckett, MOT, OTR/L, CHT

Lisa A. Juckett, MOT, OTR/L, CHT fulfills two roles at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio: 1) as a Clinical Instructor in the Occupational Therapy Division and 2) as a PhD Candidate in the College of Social Work. From 2016-2018, Juckett served as Student Chair/Chair-Designee for the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). She also served as the AGHE Senior Representative to the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) from 2017-2018. In her multiple roles, Juckett was able to combine her experiences as an educator and her position as a PhD student to advocate for the needs of other students and emerging professionals interested in gerontology and geriatrics. She has leveraged her skills as an instructor and a healthcare clinician to organize and lead several events for students at both the GSA and AGHE annual meetings, such as the AGHE Student Symposium, the AGHE Student Networking Event, the AGHE Student Lounge, and the ESPO Informal Discussion on innovative teaching strategies. As an emerging implementation science researcher, Juckett recognizes how both GSA and AGHE play critical roles in training future gerontologists and addressing complex needs of the aging population through high-quality interdisciplinary care and services.

I am uniquely suited to serve GSA as an Early Career Board Member due to my previous leadership positions and perspectives in both social sciences and health sciences. I can represent others who are early in their careers and want to address the complex needs of the aging community through evidence-based services that are implemented by well-trained gerontologists. Such implementation efforts require collaboration between researchers, educators, practitioners, and students—all groups with which I have been able to identify due to my various professional experiences. My experiences in AGHE/ESPO leadership combined with my experiences in social sciences, health education, clinical practice, and implementation research inform my ability to foster interdisciplinary collaboration across all gerontological areas. Research findings alone cannot advance the health and wellness of the aging community—we also must effectively implement these findings in the "real world." GSA is ripe for discovering interdisciplinary solutions designed to translate knowledge from academia to the community and tackle complex aging issues. As a Board Member, I want to be an agent of change for the gerontology field and facilitate collaboration between GSA leadership, committees, and members in order to provide the highest quality care and services to our aging society.

If elected to serve on GSA’s governing board, I would bring a unique combination of academic and non-profit management experience to the position. After graduating from law school, I started a non-profit organization to provide free and affordable legal information and services to older adults and caregivers. In order to grow and sustain this new agency, I recruited and worked with the governing board, built partnerships with other service providers, raised funds, hired and managed staff, student interns, and volunteers, developed and evaluated programs, and took care of the thousands of other tasks that come with running an organization. I hope to put this experience to work for GSA as we implement the new governance structure. As a relatively new professor in an undergraduate Gerontology program, I also anticipate actively working to successfully integrate AGHE into GSA and expanding support for Gerontology educators, particularly early-career faculty. In light of the growing need for professionals in a variety of fields serving older adults, I look forward to positioning GSA to be the leader in preparing future practitioners, researchers, and policymakers.
Dana Burr Bradley, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE

Dana Burr Bradley is Dean of the Erickson School of Aging Studies and a Professor of Social Gerontology at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She received her PhD in Applied History and Public Policy from Carnegie-Mellon University as a funded Rockefeller Humanities Fellow. Bradley's research involves creating capacity for policy and service initiatives in aging across space and time and developing evidence-based strategies to improve the creation and delivery of gerontological education in the longevity economy. A Fellow of the AGHE (2003), GSA (2005) and affiliated with AGHE member institutions since 1992, Bradley has served in a numerous AGHE leadership roles. Most recently she served as the AGHE Treasurer during its transition and integration into GSA and continues her role on Gerontology & Geriatrics Editorial Board (2015) and co-convener of the Business & Aging Interest Group. She has served as President of the Southern Gerontological Society (2011-2012) and Secretary, GSA (2012-2014) and was the founder and co-Editor of the GSA Journal of Aging, Humanities & the Arts, (2006-2010).

AGHE has been the primary organization which has supported my journey as a gerontological educator. I have benefited from the collegiality of countless annual meetings, spirited discussions on committees and editorial boards, and the guidance of generations of colleagues. As part of the leadership team who thought deeply about the roles that AGHE might have both within GSA and as a proactive voice for training and thought leadership for the next generation of researchers, educators and advocates, and I would like to help support AGHE's continued transformation. I bring both a perspective informed from work on AGHE finance, membership and programs with a long term view to how AGHE will contribute to GSA's mission. At no time in our history has it been more imperative to claim the gerontological educator's voice. Multiple professional associations outside of aging are supporting programmatic and institutional frameworks to support work in aging education. I will strive to ensure that AGHE's perspectives inform strategic directions in GSA and that we explore ways to expand the opportunities for all scholars interested in connecting the academy to both community and industry.

Joann M. Montepare, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE

Joann Montepare is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Fuss Center for Research on Aging and Intergenerational Studies at Lasell College. She earned her PhD in lifespan social-developmental psychology from Brandeis University and has conducted research exploring social and personal perceptions of age generating 100+ articles, chapters, presentations, and journal special issues. An advocate of intergenerational teaching and learning, she has developed innovative educational programs such as Talk of Ages which brings older and younger learners together across the curriculum and provides resources for educators to integrate intergenerational exchange and aging content in their classrooms. A champion of the Age-Friendly University (AFU) initiative, she has been at the forefront of AGHE's global efforts in advancing the AFU network. She chairs AGHE's Academic Program Development committee, convened the GSA AFU interest group, and received AGHE's 2018 Administrative Leadership Honor. An active member of the Boston aging network, she is past president of the Massachusetts Gerontology Association (MGA) and serves on boards and councils of diverse community organizations. Her grant-funded collaborations with community partners have provided programs for adults seeking encore careers and lifelong community engagement. She is an AGHE, GSA, APA, and SESP Fellow.

AGHE is at an exciting, pivotal juncture, and I would be honored and eager to serve as Chair. With its transformation to AGHE 2.0 and integration in GSA, it is vital that AGHE members maintain their connections and identity, and I will work to ensure this by sharpening our communication and interaction channels. AGHE's expertise and its signature educational initiatives including the Program of Merit, Gerontology Competencies, and Standards and Guidelines have much to offer GSA more broadly. I will work to engage GSA colleagues as members of AGHE, build alliances with GSA sections, and deepen AGHE's reach in aging education, research, and public service. AGHE's recent endorsement of the global Age-Friendly University (AFU) initiative was pioneering, and AGHE is fast becoming a driving force in the AFU movement as a global leader in education on aging. Representing an AFU campus and having spearheaded the recruitment of US institutions in the AFU network, I am well positioned to work with AGHE, GSA, and AFU partners to provide strategic guidance to advance our AFU vision and voice. Most certainly, I will be a champion for all that AGHE does to enrich the lives of individuals as they age.
Behavioral and Social Sciences Chair

I am eager to serve as BSS Section Chair. I have 30 years of experience in behavioral and social science research related to aging across multiple settings: the nursing home (Philadelphia Geriatric Center), academic medicine (Neurology, Columbia University), and public health (University of Pittsburgh). I have gained key administrative experience as a department chair (8 years and running) and chair of an NIH study section. GSA is my academic home; I have attended every national meeting but one since 1989. I have a strong track record working with state health and human services infrastructure to deliver population-level interventions that serve older adults. This effort will be central in the next years as states and local communities will increasingly be called upon to maintain public sector services for vulnerable populations. As BSS Chair my goal will be to promote the already solid work of the Section and develop a cadre of behavioral and social scientists who can engage with state-and county-level human service infrastructure to test, translate, and disseminate effective interventions. Greater engagement in this effort could be valuable for GSA as a whole, as it would increase its impact and visibility.

Steven M. Albert, PhD, MS, FGSA

Steven Albert, PhD is Professor and Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. He has responsibility for a faculty of 17 and 120 MPH and doctoral students, with a department budget over $5M yearly. He has been a GSA member since 1989, served as Treasurer of BSS (2008-11), chaired two GSA workgroups on aging and over-the-counter medication behavior, and chaired the GSA Fellowship Committee (2018-19). He is currently associate editor of Innovation in Aging and chair of NIH study section, NRRRC (NINR, 2018-present). He served on the American Cancer Society Health Policy and Health Services Research study section (2009-12). He is currently PI of the Pitt CDC Prevention Research Center and co-directs the Population and Clinical Core of the Pitt NIA Claude D. Pepper Center. He led a HRSA Public Health Social Work Leadership training program and co-directed an NIMH Advanced Center for Intervention Services Research. His evaluation of the PA Department of Aging’s statewide falls prevention program allowed PA to draw on federal funding for prevention efforts. He also led the redesign of long-term care eligibility screening in PA, which went into effect in 2019.

Debra Umberson, MSW, PhD, FGSA

Debra Umberson is Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin where she also serves as codirector of the Texas Aging & Longevity Center and director of the Population Research Center. She received her PhD in sociology from Vanderbilt University and was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Michigan. She also holds a BA in gerontology and a master’s degree in social work. She is an elected GSA Fellow and has served as Council Member at Large for the GSA BSS (2009-2011). Dr. Umberson has published over 100 articles, focusing on social ties and health over the life course. The blending of quantitative and qualitative methods is a hallmark of her research as illustrated in her book, Death of a Parent: Transition to a New Adult Identity. Her recent publications address how spouses influence each other’s health and how those processes vary across gay, lesbian, and heterosexual marriages. Her current work, supported by NIA, focuses on racial/ethnic differences in exposure to the death of family members across the life course and the implications for long-term health. Dr. Umberson teaches courses on death and dying, blended research methods, and the family life course.

GSA places a central role in promoting research on aging and bringing research findings to a broad audience. I am especially interested in advancing this agenda by translating findings to make them easily accessible to others. Unique qualifications include my interdisciplinary background as well as work experience that blends administrative, research, publishing, and teaching roles. I have served as a department chair, center director, editor of Journal of Health and Social Behavior, and BSS Member at large for GSA (2009-11). My degrees in gerontology, social work, and sociology inspire my interdisciplinary focus and blending of qualitative and quantitative methods. I’ve worked with terminally ill patients and their families, students and faculty members, and large research teams. My favorite courses to teach are “Death and Dying” and “Gender and the Family Life Course.” I view the different parts of the GSA Mission Statement as interrelated and working together to promote research, application, education, and advocacy. I hope that by emphasizing this interrelatedness we will advance GSA’s Mission.
Biological Sciences Section Members – Select One (Four-year term beginning January 2020)

Viviana I. Perez, PhD, FGSA

Viviana Perez is an Associate Professor in the Biochemistry and Biophysics Department, and Principal Investigator at the Linus Pauling Institute, Oregon State University. Dr. Perez research interest is focused primarily on understanding the role of Nrf2 in cellular senescence and how this is related to the pathogenesis of age-related diseases. Furthermore, another research interest of her laboratory is focused in to understand the differences in the molecular mechanism by which cells from long-lived species are more resistant to proteotoxicity than cells from short-lived species. Her contributions to the aging field are recognized by her receiving the Ellison Medical Foundation/AFAR: Senior Postdoctoral Award, Ellison Medical Foundation New Scholar in Aging, American Federation Research grant (AFAR), and R03 and R01 NIH/NIA research grants. She has served in Scientific Reviewer for the National Institute of Health (NIH/NIA), and other national and international scientific organizations.

Dr. Perez is an active member of the Gerontological Society of America and the American Federation for Aging research (AGE). She is currently a member of the Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee; Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and a Member of GSA Biological Sciences Section Leadership, being the minority issues committee representative.

I am honored to be considered for the position as Chair of the BS section. I had extensive training in the field of basic biology of aging and experience participating in different areas that leads and promotes research on aging. My experience working in the minority issues in gerontology, where I have to interact with other members of different sections of GSA, have provided me with a broad understanding of the interests of different areas or disciplines in aging research. I strongly believe that we are living a very exciting moment with respect to aging research, our field has grown tremendously and with the new focus in Geroscience, our research focus has expanded allowing us to bring and engage different health professionals and researchers that have an interest in integrating the basic mechanisms underlying aging with the conditions of older people, specifically chronic diseases. I'm very enthusiastic in being part of this moment, and I believe I have the necessary skills to bring together the expertise in the basic biology of aging with other sections of the GSA, and interchange new ideas/concepts on the role of biology of aging in these health problems.

Blanka Rogina, PhD, MS, FGSA

Blanka Rogina is Associate Professor of Genetics and Genome Sciences at University of Connecticut Health, School of Medicine, and an affiliated investigator of the UConn Center on Aging. Her research focuses on genetic mechanisms of aging, and has resulted in identification and characterization of several genes critical for Drosophila health and longevity. Dr. Rogina received an award from the American Federation for Aging Research, several awards from the National Institute on Aging, and the Glenn Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging. She has served as a reviewer on several NIH study sections, and is actively involved in training the next generation of scientists as Director of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Graduate Program. Dr. Rogina was co-organizer and host of The Northeastern Glenn Symposiums on the Biology of Aging at UConn in 2015 and 2017, and will be organizing another in Fall 2019. She founded the Frontiers in Genetics of Aging journal and currently serves as Specialty Chief Editor. She was also a guest Editor for the Special Issue: Aging Studies in Drosophila melanogaster, published in Experimental Gerontology. Dr. Rogina is an elected Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and is currently serving on the Award Committee.

I am honored to be considered for the position of Biological Sciences Chair. I have been performing aging studies using Drosophila as a model for the last 25 years. During this time, great progress has been made in understanding basic biology of aging and potential clinical applications, including identification of single gene mutations that affect longevity and discoveries of drugs with beneficial effects in experimental animals. I possess several leadership strengths in mentorship, communication, and organization that will support the biological section of the GSA. My leadership role mentoring graduate students makes me well-suited to help develop the next generation of scientists interested in the biology of aging. My experience as a chief editor will enable me to effectively disseminate scientific knowledge in GSA journals. My ability to organize scientific gatherings that allow fluid exchange of knowledge and facilitate collaborations will be key to my Chair role. My goal to leverage these strengths to enhance the GSA in these areas. I see interdisciplinary research and collaboration as essential for further understanding the mechanisms that support organismal health and extending lifespan, and I will work hard to accelerate these efforts, ultimately towards the rational design of therapeutic interventions.
Jacquelyn A. Minahan, MA

Jacquelyn Minahan, M.A., is a doctoral candidate at the University in Kansas (KU), pursuing a dual PhD in Gerontology and Clinical Psychology. She will be completing her clinical residency in 2019-2020 at the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC, specializing in primary care mental health integration. Prior to beginning her graduate work at the KU, she completed her master’s degree at Boston University in mental health counseling and behavioral medicine, with a clinical focus in geropsychology. Her research interests include multimorbidities and chronic pain in older adults, specifically the impact on mental health functioning. She is the recipient of the Excellence in Gerontology Graduate Student Award, the Lori Irving/Mitch Handelsman Graduate Student Teaching Award, the Beatrice A. Wright Scholarship in Health/Rehabilitation Psychology, and the Clinical Program Citizenship Award at the University of Kansas.

Jacquelyn has both academic and national leadership experience. Currently, she serves as the ESPO Secretary and chair of the newsletter task force. She has previously served as an ad-hoc journal reviewer for Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine. At KU, she served as the graduate admissions chair for the clinical psychology program, completed an undergraduate course re-design, and was nominated as class representative for the psychology department.

I am honored to be considered for the ESPO Chair position. As current ESPO secretary and chair of the Newsletter Task Force, I have contributed to the growth and development of our section. I have played an active role in the ongoing governance changes and have helped ensure that ESPO continues to have a strong voice in the greater GSA community. Coupled with my student leadership positions at the University of Kansas, I feel uniquely qualified to serve in this role.

ESPO, and GSA at large, is posed to contribute significantly to the scientific community, due in large part to the multidisciplinary nature of this organization. Gerontology unites researchers across sections, working simultaneously to better understand and improve the process of aging. With this agenda, I aim to promote interdisciplinary research initiatives to foster cross-sectional collaboration. I will continue to diversify our student membership, and work to increase student engagement at the annual scientific meeting. Lastly, I will continue highlighting the accomplishments of our ESPO members to the larger society. As the future of GSA, I will advocate for the student and transitional members of our society, and I would be honored to represent ESPO as Chair.

Danielle A. Waldron, MS

Danielle Waldron is a PhD Candidate in Gerontology and has a Master of Science degree in Gerontology from the University of Massachusetts Boston. She recently completed a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Medical School’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center. Waldron also holds a Graduate Certificate in Disability and Health from Suffolk University. She conducts qualitative and quantitative research on the health and wellness of individuals aging with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Waldron participated in the 2019 Disability Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. where she educated elected officials and their staff on issues related to lifelong disability and aging. In 2018, she received the Gerontology Service Award from the University of Massachusetts Boston for her mentorship and community service efforts. She has previously served as president of the Sigma Phi Omega Gamma Upsilon Chapter of the International Academic Honor and Professional Society in Gerontology. Waldron is a current member of the lifelong disabilities special interest group at GSA and represents interests of emerging professionals in gerontology as the ESPO Junior representative of the Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) committee of GSA.

If elected ESPO Chair, I would aim to increase visibility of gerontology through collaboration and networking. I envision a future where there is a gerontologist in every community and on every city council.

As a gerontologist, myself, situated at the intersection of lifelong disability and aging, I am actively working to align advocacy, research, and policy efforts of the disability and aging communities. It is my mission to foster communication and partnership between these groups to maximize their collective impact on issues such as the direct care workforce shortage.

During this past year as SRPP ESPO junior representative, I helped develop a symposium highlighting the benefits of collaboration between professionals in industry and academia. I am currently preparing a comprehensive list of internships and fellowships for ESPO members to use as a resource when exploring potential career paths.

If elected ESPO Chair, I would work to make our conferences more welcoming and accessible for early careerists, entrepreneurs, older adults, and non-researchers. I believe ESPO members could greatly benefit from more open-minded networking opportunities that bring varied perspectives and lived experiences to GSA. This will help facilitate ESPO members’ professional growth and help gerontology come alive in the world beyond academia.
Debra Bakerjian, PhD, APRN, FAAN, FAANP, FGSA

Debra Bakerjian is a clinical professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis teaching geriatrics, quality improvement and patient safety to graduate students. Her research interests include patient safety, quality improvement practices as well as interprofessional education and collaborative practice in primary care and nursing homes.

Dr. Bakerjian has been a member of GSA and the Health Sciences section for many years; serving on a variety of committees including HS representative to Publications and Membership. She served as the Chair of the Search Committee for the Editor-in-Chief position for The Gerontologist and on the Abstract Review committee for IAGG.

Bakerjian was a Pat Archbold Predoctoral Scholar and a Claire M. Fagin Postdoctoral Fellow at UCSF where she earned a PhD in Health Policy and Gerontology in 2002 and a Master of Science in Nursing in 2002. Her doctoral study, “Utilization of Nurse Practitioners in Nursing Homes: A Comparison with Physicians,” received the 2006 Dissertation of the Year Award. Bakerjian is active in both state and national organizations associated with older adults, quality improvement and patient safety and a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America, American Academy of Nursing, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

I am honored to be nominated for the position of HS Section Chair. I have been a member of GSA for over 15 years and have served on a variety of committees. Most recently, I served as the Search Committee Chair for the Editor-in-Chief for The Gerontologist, which was a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with an interprofessional committee of GSA members over an extended period. GSA’s goal is “to promote the study of aging in all scientific and scholarly disciplines”, and as such, serves as an exemplar for interprofessional collaboration within healthcare organizations. I have been fortunate to have had a long clinical career as a nurse practitioner providing care to nursing home residents followed by my current academic career, teaching the next generation of clinicians and researchers. Throughout my career, I have focused on quality of care and the importance of collaboration. This focus aligns well with the strong collaborative nature of GSA as an organization.

If elected HS Chair, I will work hard to ensure the HS section leadership comes together with a shared vision of growth and innovation within a culture of inclusion and collaboration, working together to achieve the goals of the society.

Christine Mueller, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN

Christine Mueller, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN is a professor and Senior Executive Associate Dean of Academic Programs at the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing and holds the Long-term Care Professorship in Nursing. Her research career has focused on improving the care of elders living in nursing homes and focused on factors that can influence quality of nursing home care such as nurse staffing, care delivery systems, and the role of the nurse and nursing home culture change. She has provided national leadership on teaching geriatric nursing, with a particular emphasis on using the nursing home setting as a clinical learning laboratory for teaching geriatric nursing. Dr. Mueller has been a member of the GSA for over 30 years and a fellow since 2011. She provided leadership to develop the System Research in Long-term Care interest group, served as the chair of the Health Sciences Research Committee, served on the GSA Public Policy Committee, is an inaugural member of the Nursing Care of Older Adults interest group, and presented numerous papers/posters at the GSA annual meetings.

The GSA is embarking on its 75th anniversary marking its extraordinary contributions to advancing interdisciplinary research, education and practice in gerontology. I am committed to providing leadership to the GSA and the Health Sciences section to continue the trajectory of growth to advance the society’s mission. The restructuring of the governance of GSA provides a renewed opportunity for the society to be responsive and provide leadership in transforming the field of aging. As the Health Sciences Section Chair (and chair in the second year), I look forward to working collaboratively with the section’s leaders, members, and students to identify and advance the priorities of the section. I am particularly committed to lifting up the contributions of the members through awards and GSA fellowship and increasing the membership of the health sciences section. My long-standing membership and engagement in the GSA and leadership in other professional organizations gives me a strong background to lead and grow the health sciences section.
Debra Dobbs, PhD, FGSA
Debra Dobbs, Associate Professor, School of Aging Studies, University of South Florida, has been a member of GSA since 1996 when she was a graduate student at the University of Kansas and considers GSA to be her professional home. Debra has been a GSA Fellow since 2011. She is currently the Secretary for the SRPP Section (2017-20) and serves on the Finance committee. From 2013-16 she served on the GSA Program Committee and a three-year term as the Chair of GSA’s Committee on Interest Groups. Prior to that, she was the Convenor of the Hospice, Palliative and End-of-Life Care Special Interest Group (IG) (2009-12). She has been active for 10+ years in conference workshops for three IGs, including Hospice, Palliative Care, Assisted Living and Research in Quality of LTC, and involved in planning the program in 2016 for the SRPP Section. She regularly reviews for the GSA journals and for many years since graduate school has reviewed abstracts for the GSA annual meeting. Debra has nominated several GSA members to be Fellows. Internationally, she was very involved in IAGG in July, 2017, as a presenter and a discussant which was co-hosted by GSA.

As a member of GSA for 23 years who has served in multiple leadership roles, I am in the unique position to see the evolution of GSA. During my leadership in ESPO as a graduate student in the mid 1990s there was expansion of the role of students in GSA. That growth has continued with the Mentor Match program, funding opportunities to attend the annual meeting, scholarships, and the ESPO sponsored symposium. One goal I would have as Chair for SRPP would be to assure GSA’s continued commitment to ESPO members through professional development, funding opportunities (scholarships), presentation opportunities at the annual meeting and a role in shared governance. Second, I want to make sure, given the new governing structure of GSA, that there is still the fostering of networking opportunities through GSA’s 45-plus Interest Groups. I would want to assure that GSA staff continues to educate members about GSA Connect as the vehicle for IGs to network. In summary, I would hope that my past knowledge and vision for the future for GSA would enable me to be a good candidate as Chair of SRPP and contribute to the ongoing success of GSA.

Deborah P. Waldrop, PhD, MSW, FGSA
Deborah P. Waldrop is a Professor of Social Work at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. She served as the Associate Dean for Faculty Development from 2012-2019. Her research has focused broadly on the intersection of aging, health and healthcare decision-making. Specifically, she has explored the dynamics of hospice enrollment decisions, how advance care planning decisions influence adaptation in bereavement and emergency end-of-life decision-making when family members call 911. Currently, Deborah is exploring the diagnosis-specific decisions that face older adults who have end stage renal disease (ESRD). Deborah was awarded a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar award in 2001. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), currently serves as an SRPP representative on the GSA Fellows Committee, has previously served on the Arts and Humanities Committee, and she has served as a GSA abstract reviewer and presented annually at the GSA meetings since 1999. Deborah is a past Vice President of the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW), and a current member of the Board of Social Work in Hospice and Palliative Network (SWHPN). She is co-chair of the National Quality Forum’s standing committee on Geriatrics and Palliative Care.

GSAs my professional and research home. I am grateful for the deep, rich context that the SRPP section provides where research is situated within current social issues and policy gaps. Participating in Interest Groups, collaborating on interdisciplinary symposia and poster sessions has fostered important dialogue and collaboration by creating venues for sharing perspectives. I am honored to be nominated for the position of SRPP Chair and considered for the opportunity to serve in a leadership role while representing SRPP within GSA.

I envision learning from and building on the strengths and successes of current and past SRPP leaders to foster continued growth of our section. I would like to identify means for scholars who are early, mid-career and advanced to come together to consider some of the pressing issues of our time that impact older adults. I would like to identify opportunities for intra-sectional symposia or round table discussions to generate stronger scientific thinking and research collaboration about cross-cutting gerontological issues that could be approached more comprehensively together by scientists from all four sections by bringing various perspectives. I would work to advance means for connecting SRPP scholars and their research to current policy, programs and practice.