GSA has appointed Rozalyn Anderson, PhD, FGSA, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and David Le Couteur, FRACP, PhD, of the University of Sydney as the biological sciences co-editors-in-chief of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, effective January 2018.

“Their complimentary breadth of expertise and shared innovative vision for the journal make Drs. Le Couteur and Anderson ideally suited to co-lead the journal,” said Noah J. Webster, PhD, chair of GSA’s Publications Committee. “Furthermore, their reputations as leading scholars in the field as well as longstanding contributions to the journal in both scholarly content and editorial leadership, we are confident will ensure the journal’s continued top ranking in the field.”

The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences is published by Oxford Journals on behalf of GSA. Its biological sciences section publishes peer-reviewed articles on the biological aspects of aging in areas such as biochemistry, biodemography, cellular and molecular biology, comparative and evolutionary biology, endocrinology, exercise sciences, genetics, immunology, morphology, neuroscience, nutrition, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, vertebrate and invertebrate genetics, and biological underpinnings of late life diseases. The journal, with an impact factor of 5.957, has been ranked first of 32 in the gerontology category of Journal Citation Reports: Social Sciences Edition for the past seven consecutive years.

“The Journals of Gerontology, Series A, with its adjoined biological sciences and medical sciences sections, occupy a unique niche in aging research publications at the intersection of basic and clinical research,” Anderson said. “The
From the Executive Director

GSA’s Got the Cure for Post-World Congress Blues

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

With a successful 2017 World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics now part of the history books, many GSA members may wonder how the Society will follow up the largest event it ever organized. I’m happy to report there are many exciting things on the horizon.

First, the World Congress won’t be just a happy memory. With more than 6,000 attendees, we used the opportunity to bring many new members into the GSA family. And we’ve released a supplemental issue of our new journal, Innovation in Aging, which contains the abstracts for every peer-reviewed session at the World Congress. You can access it at academic.oup.com/innovateage.

Share this with your colleagues!

Next, with GSA’s next Annual Scientific Meeting 15 months away, we’re going to be undertaking a number of virtual activities to keep in touch with members.

In June, we surveyed the membership on GSA Connect, asking about topics and speakers they would like to see in a webinar series we’ll produce this fall. The format may be different than what you’re used to — each session will be a one-hour live panel discussion on a topic with question and answer between attendees and the panelists.

We hope to educate and challenge participants’ thinking about topics such as U.S. aging policy, National Institute on Aging opportunities, trends in aging, and more. Look for more information in September about the series and instructions for signing up.

The Annual Scientific Meeting normally provides the venue for GSA’s governance meetings, so we’ve developed an innovative solution in this area, too. We’ll conduct the Society’s business virtually during a Leadership week from November 13 to 17 — in a series of more than 20 conference calls and webinars for GSA’s Council meeting, annual business meeting, and Society-wide committee meetings.

Speaking of GSA’s leadership, I’m happy to announce that we’re now underway on a process to modernize our governance structure. With the approval of the GSA Council, a workgroup led by President Barbara Resnick is currently reviewing our system of governance, including the roles of various committees and interest groups, and the involvement of international members to strengthen the Society. The entire GSA membership will be asked to participate in a survey soon, so stay tuned.

A few noteworthy in-person events are slated for this fall as well. As part of our work to disseminate the National Academies of Sciences, Medicine, and Engineering report titled “Families Caring for an Aging America,” we’re in the planning stages of a Capitol Hill briefing featuring members of the bipartisan congressional Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Caucus.

GSA’s Immunization Champions, Advocates & Mentors Program (ICAMP) is gearing up for a series of regional events in the coming months in Miami, San Antonio, Chicago, and New York City. ICAMP is a multidisciplinary program designed to equip health care professionals to champion adult immunization practices that improve public health and the quality of care for the people they serve. Visit www.navp.org/training-for-champions to learn more.

Additionally, GSA is teaming up on a project with Bank of America Merrill Lynch; we’re currently working on a new report, “Longevity Economics: Policies to Promote the Economic Advantages of Aging.” We’ll be releasing it later in 2017. The goal of this partnership is to strengthen the understanding, awareness, and importance of age-friendly policies on fostering economic growth and successful aging.

And before the year is through, we’ll be inviting you to submit abstracts for GSA’s 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting, slated for November 14 to 18 in Boston. The theme is “The Purposes of Longer Lives.” (Don’t forget GSA’s 75th anniversary in 2020 is just around the corner, too!)
In Memoriam

William Satariano, PhD, a professor of epidemiology and community health sciences and director of undergraduate health programs at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health, passed away May 28 at age 70. Satariano’s expertise and research interests were in the field of aging and public health. He studied a range of issues related to healthy aging, including cancer rehabilitation and survival, the built environment and health behaviors, and technology and the promotion of physical activity among older adults. Satariano contributed to more than 120 scholarly publications over the years. He served as a principal investigator on research topics ranging from the effects of agent orange and its link to cancer to the effect of mobile phone technology on walking in older populations.

New Books by Members


• “Disability and Aging: Learning from Both to Empower the Lives of Older Adults,” by Jeffrey Kahana and Eva Kahana, PhD, FGSA. Published by Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2017.

Members in the News

• On May 16, John Morley, PhD, FGSA was interviewed by KBIA Radio for a segment titled “What Should Doctors Be Asking Their Older Patients? A New Screening Tool Provides May Help.” He discussed an assessment program to get a head start on diagnosis and treatment of issues in older people.

• Helen Dennis, MA, wrote a May 22 article in Los Angeles Daily News titled “Successful Aging: Four Ways to Change Attitudes Toward Aging.” The piece summarized parts of the Reframing Aging project that GSA oversees with seven other aging-focused organizations, and how to use the concept in everyday life.

Colleague Connection

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

Janice Crist, PhD, RN, FAAN

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Jennifer May, MSN, NP, was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Member Spotlight

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

Manfred Gogol, PhD, FGSA

Visit www.geron.org/membership to ask questions and read previous interviews. Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Diehl Named Distinguished Professor

Manfred Diehl, PhD, FGSA, an expert on the psychology of aging, has been named a University Distinguished Professor, one of Colorado State University’s highest faculty honors. Diehl, a professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies who joined the university in 2006, is known nationally and internationally for his work in the field of gerontology. In 2015, he earned the Humboldt Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, one of the oldest and most prestigious science foundations in Europe. He is currently the president of the American Psychological Association’s Division 20: Adult Development and Aging.

Wallhagen Receives Researcher Award

The University of Washington School of Nursing has honored Professor of Physiological Nursing Margaret “Meg” Wallhagen, RN, PhD, FAAN, FGSA, with this year’s Distinguished Researcher Award. This distinction recognizes an individual whose research, professional achievements and cumulative contributions have brought personal distinction, enhanced the profession, improved the welfare of the general public, and brought honor and prestige to his or her field. Wallhagen received the award for her dedication to the field of gerontology, caregiver health, chronic illness management, healthy aging, and hearing loss. Her nominators affirmed “her work, efforts and research exemplify this award for her research in gerontology and helping meet the needs of the growing population of older adults.”

Allman Earns Veterans Affairs

Richard Allman, MD, FGSA, has received the Edward Henderson Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. A board-certified geriatrician, Allman’s career has focused on improving care for older adults at the local, state, and national levels. His research has informed these efforts with focus on a multitude of pressing issues, particularly with regard to mobility, cardiovascular health and health disparities among older adults. In his role with the Veterans Health Administration, Allman oversees the policy, planning and programs, and services for geriatrics, palliative care, and long-term services. Allman received GSA’s Donald P. Kent Award in 2013.

GSACilter Corner

• Kelsey Glattelter: “The next issue of the Aging Trends Report is here and it is focused on Health Sciences. A great issue with an interview from HS Chair Tomas Grieibling. You can access it online here.”

• Desmond O’Neill, MD, FGSA: “Let’s hope that we can see a lifetime perspective on this: gerontology is marred by studies of loneliness/isolation focusing on older people alone without a context of these issues across the lifespan (a misdemeanor for which I too have been guilty!), thereby potentially characterizing loneliness/isolation as characteristics of late life rather than a life-long existential issue to which there might be specific issues relating to later life!”
Aging Advocacy: Recess Reprise

August usually brings 100 percent humidity to DC, a congressional recess, and your senators and representatives home to their states, districts, and you. This month, as I prepared to make a pitch for advocacy in the midst of preparations for the World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, I decided to give myself a recess and pull together a few advocacy “greatest hits” from the past. It wasn’t as easy as I thought, given that I have now been writing this column since 2008; in fact, this could have been a “double album.”

But it was fun looking back at the articles and interviews and selecting what I hope will be some helpful pieces. This summer, the Senate recess may be delayed a week or two, but the planned recess of July 31 to September 4 affords your longest opportunity of the year to interact with members of Congress back in their home state. And in closing, let me say — in advance of the World Congress — that it was great to see you there!

Advocacy Begins at Home

A couple of months ago, I called on GSA members to become more actively involved in advocacy. It turns out that this message was issued not a moment too soon, considering the vociferous reformers who now reside (literally — it has been reported that more than 21 members of Congress bed down in their offices each night) in the halls of the U.S. House of Representatives. Reform should not be a dirty word — change can be good — but it must be accomplished with caution, deliberation, and a great deal of informed wisdom. You can help inform that wisdom.

Advocacy means being prepared, preemptive, and persistent. In this case, prepared involves finding out who your representative and senators are, knowing when they will be in their district office, learning what legislation they are pushing, and how they tend to vote on issues important to you. Preemptive means developing relationships with members of Congress and congressional staff before the floor vote on the bill about which you are concerned. It means promoting yourself as a resource and expert so that you will be used for issue analyses or invited to testify before a congressional committee, thereby educating and influencing many members, staffers, and journalists in one fell swoop. There’s no substitute for persistence. Persistence in the face of brusque schedulers, harried legislative aides, broken appointments, and changed venues will enable you to reach your goal of connecting with your member and creating that important relationship. (Back when I wrote this article in 2011, I congratulated the 600 GSA members who sent letters to Congress opposing cuts to the National Institutes of Health. In 2017, the Trump budget cuts NIH by more than $5 billion.)

Visiting with your representative or senators in the district or home office is a great way to start or build upon the relationship. Most congressional staffers look to the district office for opinions, information on constituents’ problems, ideas for legislation, and local experts and resources that they can use to answer questions on regional or national issues. Most congressional websites offer links to make scheduling meetings easier. Never underestimate, however, the old-fashioned telephone call, especially after you have initiated contact by e-mail. Because of the busy and hectic schedule of members and their offices, it’s easy for meeting requests to be put on the back burner. This is where persistence comes in! Note that sometimes the Senate and House have different recess dates. Be preemptive by calling now to set up your meeting with your member of Congress or district office staff.

Advocate Early and Often

According to Wikipedia, “Advocacy by an individual or by an advocacy group normally aims to influence public policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.” If we are to face the current harsh realities guided by our ethical and moral convictions — to ensure that older adults have what they need to lead safe, healthy, productive, economically secure lives — we will need to use advocacy to secure and protect the resources they need. The definition says it all: it’s about resource allocation. We must publicly speak out to inform the critical decisions regarding programs for older adults, funding for geriatric education (GWEPs), and resources for the National Institute on Aging (not to mention health care). If we don't step forward as advocates, who will?

As GSA members, we are well-qualified to be advocates. We know how to use data and research and even anecdotes to make effective cases for policies and programs. Some of us already have relationships with members of Congress or their staff. Many more of us need to develop those links. Congress needs to learn how program changes will help or hurt their districts and states, communities, and the older adults who live in them. Universities, for example, are extremely important because they employ large numbers and are a political and economic force. We need to remind Congress of this and of the valued roles we play throughout our communities.

This should be personal for all of us. We need to learn from the past. Those programs that have been targets are under attack again. If we don't work toward improving and protecting programs that benefit older adults, we may face cutbacks, our work could be in jeopardy, and older adults will pay the price in terms of lost research, lost programs, and lost opportunities.
Aging Advocacy 101

Becoming a “Citizen Lobbyist”: As part of the legacy of our democracy and representative form of government, we, as citizens, have the right and some would say, obligation, to be involved with the governing of our society. By becoming an advocate on an issue for which you care deeply and have knowledge about, you are fulfilling an important role in our system of government. When you make your voice heard as an advocate, as a constituent, or as a citizen lobbyist, you are contributing to outcomes that affect individuals and society.

Information: Information and research are important tools for influencing Congress. As an advocate, there is no substitute for knowing the issues and being able to speak about them using facts, research, and examples to illustrate your view. Members of GSA, as researchers, experts and leaders in the field of aging, can be exceptionally valuable resources to legislators. As you become aware of reports and research which are related to aging issues under legislative consideration, provide them to the congressional members whom you are trying to educate. Most aging and health issues are complex, so providing reliable, timely information is an extremely important part of advocacy. Once you establish yourself as a source of reliable information, you may be asked to testify before a congressional committee.

Relationships with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff: Though advocacy has changed as issues have become more complex and techniques have become more sophisticated, the backbone of effective advocacy is still relationships. When you meet with a congressperson or her/his staff, or make contact by phone, letter or email, be sure to explain your area of expertise, and the organization or institution with which you are affiliated, in order to establish yourself as a credible resource. Each contact you make builds a relationship. Be helpful to the congressperson or his/her staff whenever possible by providing material for speeches, sharing talking points on your issue, or by helping at election time. Attend events in the district or state and invite them to yours. Remember to develop the relationship before you need to ask for help or support.

Coalitions and Networks: Build relationships with other organizations which work on your issues. By partnering with other aging professionals, associations, and coalitions, you extend and enhance your own impact. Also, don’t overlook local and state organizations, religious groups, or politicians, as they may have access to a particular legislator through the district office.

Money: Dare to contribute — if you’re so inclined, make contributions (financial or by volunteering) to candidates you believe in or who support issues you care about. While contributions will not be the only or most important tactic you employ, they are another element of building a supportive relationship with a congressperson.

Strategy:

Be proactive — When working on an issue campaign, use proactive tactics rather than responding reactively to the tactics of opponents of your position. Take the initiative to continually develop new arguments and evidence to support your position.

Know your targets — Knowing what makes a congressperson tick — significant life events and commitments, professional training, main contributors, and past legislative accomplishments or failures – can be very helpful in understanding which messages will resonate with him or her on your advocacy issue. You will need to know her or his committee assignments, bills that s/he has introduced, and any leadership positions that s/he has.

Generate constituent action — Despite the influence of lobbyists and money in Congress, legislators are devoted to acting on behalf of their constituents. Constituent voices are powerful in their offices. If your organization has members in a legislator’s district or state, make sure they are informed of the legislator’s position on aging issues and are encouraged to make their voices heard. Using the efficiency of communication through the Internet, you can also generate calls and emails from constituents.

Plan actions strategically — As you consider how to use your time most effectively as an advocate, consider the process by which your issue or piece of legislation will be considered and which committees will have jurisdiction. Knowing this information will allow you to formulate a timeline for your campaign, and to target legislators (and constituents in their districts or states) who can influence the legislative outcome.

Use the media — They are sometimes willing partners.

Recent GSA Policy Actions

GSA Senior Director of Professional Affairs and Membership Patricia “Trish” D’Antonio and Professional Affairs Manager Laurie Lindberg represented the Society at a July 7 Capitol Hill briefing organized by the Friends of the National Institute on Aging (FoNIA). The event, “Advances at the NIA: Living Better, Living Longer,” focused on the groundbreaking aging research being supported by the federal agency. FoNIA is a broad-based coalition of aging, disease, research, and patient groups that supports the mission of the NIA; GSA is a founding member and serves on its Executive Committee.

GSA signed on to a letter from the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations expressing strong opposition to provisions of the Senate Better Care Reconciliation Act because of the harm they would inflict on our nation’s older adults and their families. The letter urged Senate leadership to reject including these proposals in any Senate legislation. The BCRA would cut Medicaid by $772 billion, affecting those needing long-term care and reducing jobs.
Continued from page 1 – Anderson, Le Couteur Named GSA’s Biological Sciences Journal Editors

importance of biology of aging research cannot be overstated, and its translation to clinical implementation promises a new approach to understanding aging and the complications presented by age-related disease. Dr. David Le Couteur and I are honored and excited to contribute to the long tradition of GSA and the Journals of Gerontology in promoting and advancing the field of aging research.”

Anderson leads the Metabolism of Aging Research Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Medicine in the School of Medicine and Public Health. Her work on aging and delayed aging by caloric restriction began in unicellular eukaryotes during her post-doc in Harvard Medical School, and extended into mammalian systems at the UW-Madison Institute on Aging and at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center. Anderson is a co-principal investigator of the Caloric Restriction and Aging in Rhesus Monkeys Study, which was the first to demonstrate the translatability of mechanisms of delayed aging by caloric restriction to primate species. She is also associate director of the UW Madison T32 Biology of Aging Training Grant Program and director of the Cellular and Molecular Biology of Aging course.

She is a recipient of GSA’s Nathan Shock New Investigator Award, The Glenn Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging, and a Breakthroughs in Gerontology Award from the American Federation for Aging Research and the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research. Anderson is also a GSA fellow, which is the highest level of membership within the Society.

The co-editorship between Anderson and Le Couteur is the first in the journal’s history.

Le Couteur is a professor of geriatric medicine at the University of Sydney, and a senior staff specialist physician in geriatric medicine at the Concord RG Hospital in Sydney. In 2016, he was awarded an Order of Australia for distinguished service to medicine as a clinical pharmacologist and geriatrician, particularly through a range of advisory roles and academic research activities. He has published more than 300 publications and chapters on a wide range of aging topics across human and animal studies. In particular, these focus on aging biology and nutrition, the aging liver and medication use in older people.

He was president of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists and is a member of the Council of the International Union for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. He was recipient of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics 2013 William B Abrams award; 2015 Rand Medal of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists; and 2017 Arthur E Mills Memorial Oration of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He has had extensive experience in government advisory committees related to the registration, funding and post-marketing safety of medications.

“Major advances in health this century are likely to come from our increased understanding of aging biology,” Le Couteur said. “It is an incredibly exciting time to be involved with the science of aging biology. I have a background in aging, geriatric medicine and clinical pharmacology, so I’m really looking forward to seeing many translational breakthrough papers published. It will be a great honor to work alongside my co-editor, Dr. Rozalyn Anderson.”
A successful university student’s experience should allow exposure to many opportunities that enhance an individual’s knowledge and skills in his or her chosen field. One of those experiences can include serving as a reviewer for a journal.

As a student or emerging scholar, you can gain the unique experience of critiquing papers from a reviewer’s perspective. By reviewing a journal article, you can improve your own writing skills and learn more about the peer-review process. You can also gain valuable insight into how a reviewer may critique your manuscripts, thereby helping you when you prepare to submit your work for publication. Reviewing journal articles can also mean that you are one of the first to read current research in your specific field and stay up-to-date on new methods and studies.

GSA’s journals The Gerontologist; Innovation in Aging; The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences; and The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences provide emerging scholars and students with the opportunity to review submitted manuscripts either as a reviewer-in-training along with a faculty mentor or as a novice reviewer. A novice reviewer serves as a third reviewer in the peer review process, and his or her comments are given full consideration in editorial decisions. Once novice reviewers have completed at least two reviews, they become regular reviewers for the journal. For more information, email GSA Associate Director of Publications Megan McCutcheon at mmccutcheon@geron.org.

Other peer-reviewed journals also extend the reviewer experience to students. In many graduate programs, students work alongside their advisors as ad hoc reviewers during the journal peer-review process. If you are interested in acting as an ad hoc reviewer, you should consult your advisor or mentor. It is important that you review for a journal that aligns with your personal research interests. For example, a student who is interested in sociology may want to review for The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, while a student who is involved in biological research may prefer to review for The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences. To reap the benefits of the reviewer experience, the articles reviewed and the chosen journal should reflect the research focus and interests of the student or emerging scholar.

If you are considering reviewing an article, here are a few tips:

- Assess if the manuscript is a good fit for the specific journal. You can read the journal’s instructions to authors and browse prior issues to see what types of articles the journal tends to publish.
- Separate your feedback into major and minor issues for revision.
- Consider if and how the manuscript contributes to the field or adds new evidence.
- Evaluate the clarity of the manuscript and if the findings are logically presented.
- Provide both constructive feedback and positive comments to the authors where applicable.
- Finally, decide if the manuscript should be rejected, accepted, or resubmitted with either major or minor revisions.

Overall, the opportunity to serve as an ad hoc reviewer for a peer-reviewed journal can offer valuable insight to any student who participates. Working alongside an advisor or primary professor can provide an excellent mentorship experience when students collaborate with a faculty member during the peer-review process. Serving as an ad hoc reviewer is also a great CV booster and shows others in the field that you have experience in reviewing research. Having reviewer experience on a CV will be beneficial when applying to positions in academia or in the research field. Your contribution to the peer-review process demonstrates that you have some background in analyzing other scholars’ research in addition to conducting your individual research.

Continued from page 1 – Isaacowitz Tapped as GSA’s Next Psychological Sciences Journal Editor

Isaacowitz said, “I am extremely honored to have been selected as the next editor of this prestigious and important journal, and look forward to helping highlight the critical work being done in this research area.”

Isaacowitz is currently a professor of psychology and the director of the Lifespan Emotional Development Lab in the Psychology Department at Northeastern University. His research focuses on the effects of aging on emotion regulation and social perception — using diverse methods including stationary and mobile eye tracking — and is funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the National Institute of Mental Health, and the Velux Stiftung.

His work has appeared in journals such as Psychological Science, Psychology and Aging, Emotion, The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, and Social Psychological and Personality Science. He has served as an associate editor at Psychology and Aging and at Emotion. Isaacowitz previously served as chair of the NIA Behavioral and Social Sciences of Aging grant review panel, and currently is chair of the National Institutes of Health’s Social Psychology, Personality and Interpersonal Processes review panel.

Isaacowitz was an undergraduate at Stanford and completed his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, and spent 10 years at Brandeis before moving to Northeastern. He is a fellow of GSA, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, and the Society for Experimental Social Psychology. He has received GSA’s Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology, as well as the Springer Early Career Award from the American Psychological Association’s Division 20.
U.S. Older Population Still Growing, Census Bureau Reports

The population of the U.S. has a distinctly older age profile than it did 16 years ago, according to new Census Bureau population estimates recently released. New detailed estimates show the nation’s median age (the age where half of the population is younger and the other half older) rose from 35.3 years on April 1, 2000, to 37.9 years on July 1, 2016. Residents age 65 and over grew from 35.0 million in 2000, to 49.2 million in 2016, accounting for 12.4 percent and 15.2 percent of the total population, respectively. These latest estimates present changes among groups by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin at the national, state and county levels between April 1, 2010, and July 1, 2016. The estimates also present changes over the same period among groups by age and sex for Puerto Rico and its municipios. Every state experienced either an increase or had the same median age as a year earlier. Nationally, all race and ethnic groups grew between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016. While all other groups experienced natural increase (having more births than deaths) between 2015 and 2016, the non-Hispanic white alone group experienced a natural decrease of 163,300 nationally. This is the last of the population estimates for 2016. Previously released were estimates of the U.S. population by age and sex, county and metro area population estimates and city and town population estimates. Access the full report at bit.ly/2voGCBQ.

New Index Tracks Status of Older People by Nation

Researchers from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and University of Southern California Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics, with the support of The John A. Hartford Foundation, have developed a new barometer that estimates how countries are adapting to the dramatic increases in the number and proportion of older persons. The John A. Hartford Foundation Index of Societal Aging — unveiled at the World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics July — is composed of specific measures across five established and reliable social and economic domains that reflect the status of older persons in a country and which can be followed over time and used to compare across nations. “Now that previously unimagined numbers of older persons are living longer it is critical that we shift from our prior sole focus on the characteristics of individuals and their immediate environments to one that includes a strategy for the entire society to successfully adapt to an aging population” said former GSA President John Rowe, MD, FGSA, the Julius B. Richmond Professor of Health Policy and Aging, Health Policy and Management at the Mailman School of Public Health, who led the interdisciplinary team of researchers. Developed for 30 countries at the outset, the index can track national sources of data for countries with aged populations including the United States and Western Europe. The index’s five elements offer a unique and not-yet-seen before context including an evidence-based metric to assess effectiveness over time and across many countries. Earlier indexes either made comparisons for a select group of industrialized nations only, sometimes excluding the U.S., were heavily weighted on economic metrics, such as late life labor force participation, did not fully capture inequalities within the advanced developed aging societies or did not measure many other characteristics of an aging society. Visit agingsocietynetwork.org for further information and to access The John A. Hartford Foundation Index of Societal Aging tool online.

New App May Improve Environments for Those with Dementia

The University of Stirling’s Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) has announced the development of a new app to help improve workplaces, public buildings, and homes for people living with dementia. Working in collaboration with construction experts Space Group, the team is creating the first app of its kind in the world to digitally assess how suitable a residence, care facility, or other environment is for older people and those living with dementia. The dementia database, called IRIDIS, will make a simple assessment of a person’s home and recommend changes that can be made to the building. The free homeowner app, available to download in autumn 2017, will address physical aspects of design which impact upon older people’s quality of life and their ability to live more independently. This includes lighting, color contrast and noise. People living with dementia, family members, healthcare professionals, construction experts or designers using the app, will be asked questions about their surroundings, and asked to take photographs. It will take about 20 minutes to assess the suitability of a two-bedroom home for an older person. Improvements the app may recommend will be as simple as changing a light bulb, to more complex improvements such as reconfiguring bathrooms. The IRIDIS app is an updated, digital version of the DSDC’s existing paperback Dementia Design Audit Toolkit. The app will be available to download from iridis.stir.ac.uk on Thursday, September 21, International Alzheimer’s Day.

New Toolkit to Help Older People Design Their Environments

To help older people design environments that meet their needs, researchers from the University of Stirling have developed a new toolkit. The toolkit, called IRIDIS, is designed to help people understand how environments can be adapted to suit older people and those living with dementia. The app will be available to download from iridis.stir.ac.uk on Thursday, September 21, International Alzheimer’s Day.
GSA Honors Outstanding Individuals

GSA salutes outstanding research, recognizes distinguished leadership in teaching and service, and fosters new ideas through a host of awards. GSA awards process continues to be a peer nomination process. The recipient’s achievements serve as milestones in the history and development of gerontology.

SOCIETY-WIDE AWARDS

**Donald P. Kent Award**
Presented to Mary Tinetti, MD, FGSA
Yale University School of Medicine

**Robert W. Kleemeier Award**
Presented to Neal Krause, PhD, FGSA
The University of Michigan

**Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging**
Presented to Robyn L. Golden, LCSW, FGSA
Rush University Medical Center

**M. Powell Lawton Award**
Presented to XinQi Dong, MD, MPH, FGSA
Rush Medical College at Rush University

**Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology**
Presented to Giyeon Kim, PhD, FGSA
The University of Alabama

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award**
Presented to Peter Martin, PhD, FGSA
Iowa State University

**Joseph T. Freeman Award**
Presented to Tamara B. Harris, MD, MS, FGSA
National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health

**Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award**
Presented to Jonathan F. Bean, MD, MS, MPH, FGSA
Harvard Medical School

HEALTH SCIENCES

**GSA Honored the 2017 Award Recipients at the GSA: Fostering a Timeless Connections Reception at the 21st IAGG World Congress in San Francisco in July.**

The 2017 award recipients will receive their awards and present their lecture in Boston at the next GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, taking place from November 14 to 18, 2018.

GSA thanks the following award sponsors:

The New York Community Trust (Pollack Award)
Polisher Research Institute of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life (Lawton Award)
Margret M. & Paul B. Baltes Foundation (Baltes Award)

If you are interested in learning more about GSA awards, visit www.geron.org/membership/awards.
Tufts Health Plan Foundation Invests $1.7 Million to Support Age-Friendly Communities

Three universities have been announced as recipients of grant support from The Tufts Health Plan Foundation, which recently unveiled new community investments of more than $1.7 million to build healthier communities by promoting collaboration and improving systems and best practices. The grantees include the Trustees of Boston University, the University of Massachusetts Foundation, and the University of New Hampshire Senior Leadership Alumni Network. These grants reflect the foundation's commitment to advancing age-friendly policies and practices that are relevant, focus on older adults, and include them in community solutions. In addition to supporting regional and local efforts to help communities become more age-friendly, the new foundation investments include support to: train first responders and healthcare professionals to better understand the needs of those living with dementia; inform older adults about healthcare choices; improve access to wellness programs and classes for vulnerable older adults to manage their chronic diseases; expand availability of supportive services at senior housing sites; identify factors influencing the health of older adults; and increase awareness of social isolation and mental health among older adults.

Older People Join Academics to Research U.K.’s First ‘Age-Friendly’ City

The Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA) at The University of Manchester has created a short film that shows how its unique program can be replicated to make a difference to the lives of older generations in cities around the world. Led by GSA member Tine Buffel, PhD, the program documents the institute’s recruitment of 18 older co-investigators, who were aged between 58 and 74. The 15-minute film provides a snapshot of the lives of older people living in Whalley Range and Chorlton, in Manchester, which became the first UK city to be recognized as “age-friendly” by the World Health Organization in 2010. The co-researchers worked with The University of Manchester to examine experiences of aging in three neighbourhoods of the city. They played a key role in identifying questions, recruiting participants and analysing data, and interviewing 68 older people who were experiencing varying degrees of poverty and social isolation. They received a training certificate from MICRA at the end of the project. Watch the full film at http://bit.ly/1diYXpl.

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis seeks visionary researchers and educators to join the school as founding faculty for the Family Caregiving Institute, which launched in April 2017 with a $5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Dedicated to the well-being of those who care for others, Family Caregiving Institute faculty aim to discover and disseminate knowledge to improve systems of support for caregivers—who are included as essential members of a person’s care team—and seek to support them in the basic needs of caring for someone outside of the clinical setting.

These faculty positions offer a number of unique opportunities to:
- conduct significant, innovative and high-impact research in family caregiving
- join a creative and interdisciplinary faculty team
- participate in transdisciplinary collaboration with researchers throughout UC Davis
- work from a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility—Betty Irene Moore Hall—which is designed to support a vision of innovation

UC Davis Health includes the School of Nursing, the School of Medicine, a 627-bed acute-care teaching hospital and a physician practice group. It is home to a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, an international neurodevelopmental institute, a stem cell institute and a comprehensive children’s hospital. Together, they make UC Davis a hub of innovation that transforms health for all.

Open recruitments include two tenure-track faculty and one clinical faculty to serve as a program lead. For full position descriptions and to apply, visit http://nursing.ucdavis.edu/ourteam/join.

UC Davis is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer with a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of diversity among its faculty, staff and students.
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OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.
Emmy Award Winning Filmmaker, Cultural Critic & Journalist

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