Christakisis to Deliver Austin Meeting Keynote; Abstracts Welcomed

GSA has selected physician, social scientist, and author Nicolas Christakis, MD, PhD, MPH, as the keynote speaker for this November’s Annual Scientific Meeting in Austin, Texas. Christakis conducts research in the area of biosocial science, investigating the biological predicates and consequences of social phenomena. He directs the Human Nature Lab at Yale University, where he is appointed as the Sol Goldman Family Professor of Social and Natural Science, and he is the co-director of the Yale Institute for Network Science.

GSA President S. Michal Jazwinski, PhD, FGSA, said Christakis embodies the theme of the 2019 GSA meeting — “Strength in Age: Harnessing the Power of Networks” — in an exceptional way.

“His truly interdisciplinary research examines the underlying determinants and the consequences of social interactions, spanning biology and population sciences,” Jazwinski said. “He also grapples with the ways in which social network dynamics can be employed to improve health and longevity — efforts that have significant public policy implications. Christakis is a prolific scientific author and a popular TED Talk lecturer.”

Christakis’ lab is focused on the relationship between social networks and well-being. This research engages two types of phenomena: the social, mathematical, and biological rules governing how social networks form; and the biological and social implications of how they operate to influence thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Ongoing investigations in the lab

Where Technology and Aging Intersect, Gerontologists Chart Path Forward

The latest issue of The Gerontologist contains 21 articles highlighting the state-of-the-art research regarding aging and technology, and offering guidance for the future. Members can access the issue by logging in at www.geron.org/publications.

Among the findings are that older adults in certain demographic groups are less likely to use technology for health-related purposes; using the Internet to connect with family and friends can indirectly affect well-being by decreasing loneliness and increasing social engagement; and there exists a potential for social robots to promote the health of older people. The development of this special issue was led by past Editor-in-Chief Rachel Pruchno, PhD, FGSA.

“Technology has the potential to improve the lives of older people,” Pruchno wrote in an opening editorial. “However, for technology to be useful, gerontologists must be engaged in every step of its development.”

The articles fall under several categories: technology and the digital divide; strategies for bridging the digital divide; Internet use and well-being; robotics; technology in the community, and technology in nursing homes.

“Gerontologists understand the aging process and can facilitate the experiences of older users. Engineers and marketing managers usually do not have this expertise,” Pruchno said, adding that when technology and marketing proceed without gerontologists, a great deal of money is invested in useless technology.
From the CEO

Honoring Older Adults Across the Life Course

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

When GSA joined with seven other leading aging organizations to launch the Reframing Aging initiative four years ago, addressing the entrenched ageism in American society was a key goal. The development and launch of the initiative, supported by nine forward-thinking funders, has provided a much-needed platform for changing the inaccurate narrative around aging and the pervasive ageism in the U.S.

In many ways, this work will help society honor older individuals across the life-course and increase our collective ability to ensure that the human capital represented by this fast-growing portion of the population is fully valued.

Honoring older individuals can take many forms.

Our state and national elected officials can honor older individuals by recognizing the permanent demographic transformation underway in the U.S. They should support age-friendly policies that ensure older individuals can fully participate in our emerging “every generation nation” — when we will enjoy an almost even distribution of every age group over the coming decades. Age-friendly policies are good for all generations and the overall health of the country.

Clinicians can honor older individuals by fully embracing the manner in which we become more different as we age, not more alike. All individuals need to be treated based upon our unique needs and overall functional status rather than our birth date. The new National Institutes of Health policy on clinical trials requires that researchers not exclude individuals from a trial based solely on age. Likewise, treatment decisions for diseases affecting older individuals should not be biased by a person’s age but be based upon a comprehensive physical assessment.

Employers can honor older individuals by ensuring our workplaces are free of age discrimination. Research shows that the conventional wisdom that describes older workers as less productive, unable to learn new things, or unwilling to embrace new technologies is flat out wrong. Recruitment and hiring practices that overtly or subconsciously lead to age bias do a disservice to older individuals and ultimately rob employers of talented workers.

The public can honor older individuals by continuing support for the growing age-friendly community movement, which helps people live more easily in their homes and local communities across the life course. And universities can do the same by embracing the new Age-Friendly University movement, which GSA’s Academy of Gerontology in Higher Education is fostering.

Finally, individuals can honor older individuals as they age by becoming aware of the inherent ageism in American society and recognizing it in our daily lives. This ageism cuts both ways across the age spectrum as the millennial generation often gets stereotyped in the same unfair manner as the 65+ population. As the age structure of the U.S. population continues to change, proactively addressing ageism against older individuals and younger cohorts will help us evolve into the every generation nation we’re destined to become.

I hope you’ll join GSA in continuing to support the work of the Reframing Aging initiative (stay tuned for more details) and honoring older individuals across the life course.

James
New Books by Members

• “Building Better Caregivers,” by Kate Lorig, DrPH; Diana Laurent, MPH; Robert Schreiber, MD; Maureen Gecht-Silver, OTD, MPH, OTR/L; Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, ABPP, FGSA; Marian Minor, RPT, PhD; Virginia González, MPH; David Sobel, MD, MPH; and Danbi Lee, PhD, OTD, OTR/L. Published Bull Publishing, 2018.

• “Ethnicity and the Dementias: Third Edition,” edited by Gwen Yeo, PhD; Linda Gerdner, PhD, RN; and Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, ABPP, FGSA. Published by Taylor & Francis, 2018.

• “Perspectives and Strategies for Promoting Safe Transportation among Older Adults,” by David W. Eby, PhD, FGSA, Lisa J. Molnar, PhD, FGSA, and Renée M. St. Louis, MPH. Published by Elsevier Inc., 2019.


Members in the News

• Tracy Wharton, PhD, LCSW, and Kathleen Wilbur, PhD, FGSA, were among several experts profiled in a December 4 article on the WalletHub website titled “States with the Best Elder-Abuse Protections.”

• Philip McCallion, PhD, FGSA, was quoted in a December 12 article in The Philadelphia Enquirer on rising rates of poverty among older Philadelphians.

Colleague Connection

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Melissa Powers, PhD

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

Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: Rajean Paul Moone, PhD, LNHA, FGSA

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

Mentes Takes Office as NHCGNE President

Janet Mentes, PhD, APRN, FGSA, FAAN, assumed the presidency of the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) at the organization’s November 2018 Leadership Conference. The NHCGNE is a collaboration of national and international nursing schools and institutions that have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the field of gerontological nursing. Mentes is a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Nursing.

Rowe Honored with Penn State Award

Former GSA President John W. ”Jack” Rowe, MD, FGSA, has been bestowed with The Pennsylvania State University’s Larry Foster Award for Integrity in Public Communication, part of the Arthur W. Page Center Awards. From 2000 until 2006, Rowe was chairman and CEO of Aetna Inc., one of the nation’s leading health care and related benefits organizations. During his tenure, he transformed Aetna's business model and culture with a focus on empowering physicians, enabling patients to achieve health and financial security.

GSACoCknet Corner

• Hannah Johnson, BS: “I am a physical therapist with extensive experience working in urban skilled nursing facilities, and am developing my dissertation topic. The project will be centered in below- and much-below-average SNFs in a dense urban area, with complex patients and staff. My goal is to tailor a quality improvement technique for nursing care/documentation to several SNFs. Do any of you have experience in the process and complexities involved in conducting research in SNFs?” (Posted in the Nursing Care of Older Adults Interest Group Forum.)

• Gwen Bergen, PhD: “The CDC released a new mobility planning tool to help older adults create a personalized MyMobility Plan. This planning tool (available on the CDC website), along with a supporting fact sheet about medicines that might increase risk of a fall or motor vehicle crash, helps older adults plan for mobility changes similar to the way that many plan financially for retirement. The MyMobility Plan provides resources and tips for older adults to help maintain mobility, make their homes safer to prevent falls, and consider alternative transportation options as they age so they can stay safe, mobile, and independent longer.” (Posted in the Open Forum.)
Happy National Heart Month! As you probably know, February provides a good excuse to address the fact that our sedentary life styles, poor diets, smoking and drinking habits, etc. may be putting us at risk of heart disease.

My spin on the month is somewhat different — I am going to use this Valentine's Day to talk about another issue of the heart — loneliness and isolation. GSA and its members have led the way in addressing this area for decades. In fact, GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston featured more than 15 sessions related to isolation and loneliness.

The topic was also the focus of GSA's December 2017 Public Policy & Aging Report titled “Lack of Social Connectedness and its Consequences.” And CEO James Appleby is a member of the Executive Council of the AARP Foundation's consumer-directed Connect2Affect campaign, which aims to “create a network of resources that meets the needs of anyone who is isolated or lonely, and to help build the social connections older adults need to thrive.”

So, perhaps you knew all that, but I do want to call your attention to the new coalition on the block: its working name is the Social Integration Coalition, but that and some of framework are still being refined. We have often talked about the value of coalitions, particularly for an organization like GSA with members active with hundreds of issues.

And it makes perfect sense to bring groups together in coalition to work on the issue of isolation. GSA is a founding member of the coalition and Vice President of Professional Affairs Trish D'Antonio and I are playing active roles in its development.

The Social Integration Coalition's fundamental purpose is to convene a diverse group of allied stakeholders to address the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness. As the coalition's convener, Andrew MacPherson of Healthsperien, said, “Evidence abounds that loneliness leads to poor health outcomes, rivaling the impact of smoking and even obesity. With nearly half of adults feeling isolated, alone, or left out, the time is now for policymakers to confront this epidemic head-on. Led by consumer and patient groups, health plans, community-based organizations, private sector researchers and innovators, and many more, the members of Social Integration Coalition are developing and advocating for bipartisan federal policy solutions to get individuals the support they need to thrive.”

Our vision: That all Americans have the opportunity and supports necessary to be socially engaged in society. Our mission: To engage diverse stakeholders, promote innovative research, and advocate for policy changes that combat the adverse consequences of social isolation and loneliness and advance approaches and practices that improve social connectedness for all Americans.

Members of the group include some old friends of GSA and some new ones: National Council on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Coalition to Transform Advanced Care, Anthem CareMore Health, Humana, National Partnership for Women and Families, and Lyft.

The Coalition objectives are:

- Developing a comprehensive policy agenda to address social isolation and loneliness;
- Prioritizing advocacy by determining our immediate policy priorities (short-term wins);
- Determining our broader, more aspirational policy goals (long-term wins); and
- Policy work will include awareness, health services and supports, research, technology, and social services and supports.

Here are our five initial goals:

- Increase public awareness for social isolation and loneliness and its effect on health and wellbeing, in part by developing a national strategy to combat social isolation and loneliness among the target populations and seeking funding for public education;
- Advance health services and supports that address social isolation and loneliness; for example, incorporate a social isolation and loneliness assessment into the “Welcome to Medicare” visit to identify at-risk individuals.
- Enhance social services and supports to social isolation and loneliness; some of our efforts will address the need for promoting non-medical interventions and the role that they can play in impacting social isolation and related costs.
- Leverage innovative technology solutions that foster connection and social integration.
- Advance research to develop the evidence base necessary to design effective programs and policies. This could include coalition support for federal research grants, and collaboration with other government entities such as the General Accounting Office, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

The coalition plans a public launch, a website, and regular interaction with both legislative and regulatory policy-makers. As you can see, there is lots going on for GSA with this coalition and the others we are active in, even as our thoughts are with all those living through the government’s partial shutdown. I hope for National Heart Month our leaders feel some love for our federal employees and keep them back at work.
Meets Your ESPO Leaders: Ready and Willing to Serve in 2019!

Chair: Jamie N. Justice, PhD
Jamie is an assistant professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine Internal Medicine Gerontology and Geriatrics. She has been a member of GSA since 2013, and was the 2014-2016 ESPO representative to the Biological Sciences Section. Professionally, she is dedicated to geroscience research, an emerging discipline that advances the hypothesis that by targeting the basic biology of aging, the incidence of multiple age-related diseases and functional declines can be delayed or prevented collectively, rather than one at a time. GSA is her professional home due to the engaged interdisciplinary membership, incredible depth of high-quality scientific discourse, opportunities for networking, and unique programs for career development for emerging scholars and early career members.

Chair-Elect: Darina V. Petrovsky, PhD, RN
Darina is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the potential of music to reduce behavioral symptoms in older adults living with dementia. She has been involved with ESPO on the Webinar Task Force prior to her current role as chair-elect. She is passionate about the field of gerontological nursing and supporting early-career scholars in their endeavors.

Past Chair: Shoshana H. “Shani” Bardach, PhD
Shani is a research assistant professor in the Graduate Center for Gerontology at the University of Kentucky and the director of clinical trials outreach and recruitment for the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging. Shani’s current research explores various factors related to research engagement, including participation of under-represented groups in Alzheimer’s disease research. Following completion of her doctorate, she completed a fellowship in patient safety and quality improvement at the Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Shani is an editorial board member of the The Gerontologist, The Journal of Aging and Social Policy, and The Journal of Applied Gerontology.

Secretary: Jacquelyn A. Minahan, MA
Jacquelyn is a doctoral candidate at The University of Kansas, pursuing a dual PhD in clinical psychology and gerontology, with a major emphasis in clinical health psychology. Her research focuses principally on multiple chronic conditions, pain, and depression among older adults. Jacquelyn is working on her dissertation, investigating the mechanisms of disease clustering and the association with depression severity among an older adult community sample.

Communications Chair: Anna Zaia, MS
Anna is originally from Brazil and moved to North Carolina for graduate school. Currently, her research focuses on the innervation degeneration of the neuromuscular junction that happens with aging. She was recently awarded the George Sacher Award in November 2018.

Past Communications Chair: Allyson T. “Ally” Brothers, PhD
Ally is the coordinator of the ESPO Dissertation Writing Group program. She completed her PhD in the Applied Developmental Science Program at Colorado State University (CSU). Her research focuses on attitudes toward aging and their role in promoting healthy aging. She is currently an assistant professor in the department of Human Development and Family Studies at CSU.
GSA is deeply indebted to the following agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their contributions to the Society and its activities during 2018.

GSA Innovation Fund
Decky Alexander
Georgia J. Anetzberger
Toni Antonucci
Ellen Apley
James Appleby
Elizabeth Arpino
Lucille Beaton
Rosemary Blieszner
Donna Bliss
John Blosnich
Walter Boot
Susan Charles
Kyong Hee Chee
Kristina Childers
Yi-Chen Chiu
Rob Coeho
Harvey Jay Cohen
Janet Curtis
Patricia D’Antonio
Pamela Doty
Sheri Doyle
Margaret Gatz
Amy Fiske
R. Turner Goins
Deborah T. Gold
Karen Zurlo
Jie Zhao
Donna Yee
Zhiqiu Ye
Anne Wyatt-Brown
Linda Wray
Rosemary Wilson
Nancy Wilson
Smith Williams
Julie Wetherell
Robert Walker
Nataliya Vorobeva
Virginia Vincenti
Nataliya Vorobeva
Robert Walker
Julie Wetherell
Smith Schuttke
Nancy Wilson
Rosemary Wilson
Linda Wray
Anne Wyatt-Brown Zhiqui Ye
Donna Yee
Jie Zhao
Karen Zurlo

Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Emerging Scholars Fund
Kathryn McGrew
Hong Mi
John Migliaccio
Terry Moore
Joel Olah
Mary Pagan
Tam Perry
Karl Pillemer
Tracy Pleasure
James Powers
Heaven Ross
Laurence Rubenstein
Stacie Salsbury
Debra Schute
Lisa Shafer
Susan Shafer
Kevin Smith
Barbara Stewart
Fernando Torres-Gil
Joan Van Nostrand
Virginia Vincenti
Nataliya Vorobeva
Robert Walker
Julie Wetherell
Barbara Stewart
Nancy Wilson
Romany Wilson
Linda Wray
Anne Wyatt-Brown
Zhiqui Ye
Donna Yee
Jie Zhao
Karen Zurlo

GSA is deeply indebted to the following agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their contributions to the Society and its activities during 2018.

Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Designated Fund
Gretchen Alkema
Amanda Barusch
Marla Berg-Weger
Sunha Choi
JoAnn Damron-Rodriguez
Howard Degenholtz
Gary Deimling
Pamela Doty
Carroll Estes
Jennifer Gaudet Hefele
Anne Glass
Robyn Golden
Ernest Gonzales
Robert Harootyan
Nancy Hooyman
Joan Hyde
Kathryn Hyer
Rosalie Kane
LaRae Knatterud
Nancy Kropf
Rebecca Last
Judith Lucas
Rebecca Mabe
Kathryn McGrew
Sonia Miller
Carmen Morano
Sheila Peace
Tam Perry
Jane Straker
Cynthia Stuen
Kathy Sykes
Robert Weech-Maldonado
Diana White
Nancy Wilson
Seojin Won
Zhiqui Ye
Sheryl Zimmerman
Karen Zurlo

Health Sciences Section Student Travel Fund
Kristina Childers
Karen Graham
Sherry Greenberg
Terri Harvath
Fran Kaiser
Chung-ju Liu
Karen Moss
Adrian Noriega de la Colina
Philippa Clarke
Sheila Cotten
Eleanor Krassen Covar
Kara Dassel
Jeffrey Elias
Cassandra Ford
Deborah T. Gold
Thomas Hess
Pamela Hunter-Bowens
Ellen Idler
Shannon Jarrott
Suzanne Kunkel
Kenzie Latham-Mintus
Rebecca Logsdon
Mark Luborsky
Karen Lyons
Lisa McGuire
Sara Moorman
Erin Murphy
Nan Park
Tina Peterson
Karen Rook
Ronica Rooks
Celeste Selwyn
Cherie Simpson
Danetra Sloan
Jaci Smith
Laurence Solberg
Silvia Sorensen
Barbara Stewart
Patricia Thomas
Aloen Townsend
Allyson Washburn
Julie Wetherell
Janet Wilmoth
Rosemary Wilson
Bo Xie
Barbara Yee
Catalina Zavala

Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Award Endowment Fund
(covering contributions made through the Fun Walk/Run at the Annual Scientific Meeting)
Rebecca Allen
Yuichi Ando
Em Arpaowong
Berghora Baldursdottir
Marie Boltz
Christina Bryant
Kathleen Buckwalter
Sarah Burger
Pamela Cacchione
Dorina Cadar
Deborah Carr
Anne-Nicole Casey
Lisa Chevalier
Shelley Condon
Eduardo de Gomesoro
Jingzhong Ding
Lois Evans
Wanda Garcia
Judith Glueck
Sherry Greenberg
Charlene Harrington
Terri Harvath
Kristina Hendrix
Christopher Hin
Anne Hughes
Jamie Justice
Sho Kaito
Janice Keeffe
Yijung Kim
Ann Kolanowski
Alison Kris
Helen Lach
Sarah Lamontagne
Yooumi Lee
Becca Levy
Ruth Palan Lopez
Veronica McSorley
Anne Mitchell
Todd Monroe
Cheryl Monturo
Learn how your support can help GSA advance research, education, and practice in the field of aging at www.geron.org/donate.

Greg O’Neill Student Policy Internship
Toni Antonucci
Marla Berg-Weger
Barbara Berkman
Letha Chadlia
Deborah T. Gold
Robert Harootyan
Kathryn Kietzman
Suzanne Kunkel
Rebecca Laster
Laurie Lindberg
Sonya Miller
Adriana Perez
Lindsay Peterson
Gena Schoen
Nina Silverstein

Carol A. Schutz Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Scholarship Fund
Toni Antonucci
Deborah T. Gold
Carol Schutz

GS A 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting
Platinum level
AARP Foundation

Gold level
AARP
Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.
USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology
Pfizer

Silver level
Age UK
Glenn Foundation for Medical Research
GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
Merck
Sanofi Pasteur
Seqirus

Sponsor level
American Federation for Aging Research
Biogen
The John A. Hartford Foundation
Mars Wrigley Confectionery
National Institute on Aging
Oxford University Press
Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research

Journalists in Aging Fellows Program
AARP
The Commonwealth Fund
The John A. Hartford Foundation
The Retirement Research Foundation
The Silver Century Foundation

Corporate Advisory Panel
Abbott
Avanir
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Eli Lilly
GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.
Mars, Incorporated
Merck
Novavax
Pfizer
Sanofi Pasteur
Seqirus
Tesaro

National Adult Vaccination Program (NAVP)
Merck
Pfizer
Sanofi Pasteur
Seqirus

GSA Journal Issues
AARP
AgeUK
Alzheimer’s Association
University of Michigan

“Longevity Economics: Leveraging the Advantages of an Aging Society” Report
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

From Policy to Practice: “An Interdisciplinary Look at Labeling Changes to OTC Analgesics and the Implications for Patient Care”
Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.

Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology
The Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation

Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging
The New York Community Trust through a generous gift from the Maxwell A. Pollack Fund

M. Powell Lawton Award
The Polisher Research Institute of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life

Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee Outstanding Mentorship Award
Senior Service America, Inc.

Senior Service America Awards for Research Related to Disadvantaged Older Adults
Senior Service America, Inc.

Douglas Holmes Emerging Scholar Paper Award
RESQCARE Interest Group

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education 44th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference
Gold level
Southern Gerontological Society

Silver level
Georgetown University, Aging and Health
Gerontology @ UMASS Boston
University of North Texas

Bronze level
Lasell College
National Association for Professional Gerontologists
Nina Silverstein
Taylor & Francis Group

Friend level
California State University, Long Beach Gerontology Program
Christine Fruehauf
Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University
Towson University Gerontology Programs

Registration Bag Sponsors
Program of Merit Health Professions Programs Review (POM) Supported by Retirement Research Foundation
Janet C. Frank, dba Applied Aging Resources
Jennifer Mendez
Stockton Center on Successful Aging

Melissa O’Connor
Roger O’Sullivan
Abner Pasatiempo
Ana Maria Pasatiempo
Marilyn Rantz
Barbara Resnick
Karen Rose
Stacie Salsbury
Freddi Segal-Gidan
Elizabeth Siembida
Cherie Simpson
Barbara Stewart
Daniel Stow
Neville Strumpf
Diana Sturdevant
Eileen Sullivan-Marx
Asrat T esfa
Thelma Wells
Christine Williams
Sara Wolfson
Jean Wyman
Zhiqui Ye
Fengying Zhang
Anna Zisberg
Andrew Zullo
New Study Examines Barriers, Attitudes and Motivators Toward Participating in the Upcoming 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau has released results from the 2020 Census Barriers, Attitudes and Motivators Study (CBAMS). The national survey and series of focus groups were designed to better understand the nation’s attitudes toward the 2020 Census, potential barriers that may inhibit participation, and possible motivators of responding. The CBAMS research is the foundation for building an Integrated Partnership and Communications campaign for the 2020 Census.

“Every part of the 2020 Census is grounded in research,” Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said. This extensive research expands similar work done ahead of the last census and shows how to reach all populations, including segments of the population that are historically hard to count, and which types of messages may be most effective. That work is then reinforced by the testing of the advertising creative to be used throughout the campaign. Additional reports released include: 2020 Census Barriers, Attitudes, and Motivators Study (CBAMS) Final Survey Report” and “2020 Census Barriers, Attitudes, and Motivators Study (CBAMS) Final Focus Group Report.” Further information may be obtained at bit.ly/2DxGQN1.

Census Bureau Issues 2017 Research Supplement

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the 2017 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) Research File. This provides income, poverty, and health insurance estimates based on previous updates to questions, as well as the redesigned processing system. In 2014, the CPS ASEC included redesigned questions for income and health insurance coverage, followed by changes in the 2015 CPS ASEC to allow spouses and unmarried partners to specifically identify as opposite-sex or same-sex. While data from the updated collection methods were released on schedule, data processing changes that take full advantage of this new content are now complete. The research files can be found at bit.ly/2sMMIMg.

Continued from page 1 – Christakis to Deliver Austin Meeting Keynote; Abstracts Welcomed

The majority of Annual Scientific Meeting activities will take place at the JW Marriott Austin and the Austin Convention Center. GSA will offer discounted lodging starting in April. Early-bird registration rates will be available from June 28 until September 12. Visit www.geron.org/2019 for complete details.

He has been named to Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World list and Foreign Policy magazine’s Top 100 Global Thinkers list.

The GSA Annual Scientific Meeting will take place from Wednesday, November 13, to Sunday, November 17. Christakis’ talk will take place on the morning of Thursday, November 14.

Abstracts for the meeting are being accepted until March 14. GSA recently presented a webinar, “The Road to Austin: Mapping the Steps for GSA 2019 Abstract Submission,” which is archived at www.geron.org/webinar.

“On the other hand, gerontologists do not have the skills to develop or design new technologies. Success will depend on evolving partnerships that include gerontologists, engineers, marketing experts, and older people working together and listening to one another,” she said.

GSAs has been active in promoting research on technology and aging, most notable through the work of a member interest group and a dedicated track of sessions at the Society’s Annual Scientific Meeting in November 2018.
funding opportunities

R RF Announces Next Deadline; O’Donnell Promoted
The Retirement Research Foundation's (RRF) next proposal application deadline is May 1. Proposals for direct service projects are considered from organizations based in seven states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, or Florida. Advocacy, training, and research projects, all with national relevance, are considered from organizations located anywhere in the U.S. RRF offers an opportunity for applicants to submit a brief (1 to 3 pages) letter of inquiry as part of the grantmaking process. Letters should be submitted by March 15. To learn more, visit www.rrf.org or email info@rrf.org. Additionally, Mary O’Donnell has been named vice president at RRF. She joined the foundation as a program officer in 2009 and was promoted to the role of senior program officer in 2013. During this time, O’Donnell contributed to all of RRF’s grantmaking program areas, with a particular focus on organizational capacity building. She has been active on a variety of philanthropic committees and served on the national Board of Directors of Grantmakers in Aging for several years. In 2018, she was selected by Grantmakers in Health as a fellow with the Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy.

Grants Will Advance Late Stage Clinical Trials for Cognitive Decline Interventions
The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is inviting research grant applications that enable the testing of promising pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms in individuals with age-related cognitive decline and in individuals with Alzheimer’s disease across the spectrum from pre-symptomatic to more severe stages of disease. This funding opportunity will support Phase III clinical trials testing pharmacological (small molecules and biologics) and non-pharmacological interventions, using a combination of biomarkers (fluid and imaging), cognitive, and functional measures as outcomes. These applications may include trials testing combinations of interventions that may act synergistically to produce a more robust and long-lasting response, as well as combinations of interventions that attempt to address multiple risk factors simultaneously (e.g., obesity, hypertension, diabetes, physical inactivity, anxiety, and depression). Standard application due dates apply. View the full funding opportunity announcement at bit.ly/2mZoZW2.

RAND is pleased to announce the 26th annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 8-11, 2019.

The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 8-9) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics, Psychology and Epidemiology of Aging (July 10-11). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties.

We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2019 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site: http://www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/. For additional information, please contact Cary Greif (cary_greif@rand.org).

RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health. RAND is an Equal Opportunity Employer Minorities/Females/Vets/Disabled

Monday, Feb. 25, 2019 | 1pm-2pm EST:
Presenter: Robert D. Kerns, PhD, Yale School of Medicine
Psychological Therapies for Pain

Monday, March 18, 2019 | 1pm-2pm EST:
Presenter: Fadel Zeidan, PhD, University of California San Diego School of Medicine
Mechanisms Supporting Mindfulness Based Pain Relief

Monday, April 29, 2019 | 1pm-2pm EST:
Presenter: Lynn Martire, MD, Penn State College of Health and Human Development
Close relationships and Chronic Pain Self-Management

Monday, May 20, 2019 | 1pm-2pm EST:
Presenter: Joseph Riley, PhD, University of Florida
Assessment of Pain Modulation in Older Adults

Monday, June 24, 2019 | 1pm-2pm EST:
Presenter: Debra Weiner, MD, University of Pittsburgh
Chronic Low Back Pain in Older Adults: Evolution of a Research Agenda

Please visit our website at www.tripll.org for more information or contact Jacqui Howard at jah3011@med.cornell.edu
The Gerontologist Planning Special Issue on Immigration

In a forthcoming special issue, The Gerontologist seeks to explore how contemporary trends in immigration, migration, and refugee movement affect how people age, and how societies care for aging people. The editors seek conceptually sophisticated papers that advance scholarly understanding or methodology, meeting high standards of scholarly rigor. They will consider papers about immigration and aging from perspectives including the aging experience of immigrants, impact of changing neighborhoods on aging, workforce issues with foreign-born direct care workers, economic impacts, family dynamics, and impacts on institutions where older people belong, live, or receive care. In keeping with the applied research mission of The Gerontologist, articles should identify implications for policy or practice. Full papers are due by May 1. Review the call for papers at bit.ly/GSA-CFPs.

Common Gene Disorder Causes Serious “Stealth” Disease

The western world’s most common genetic disorder is a “stealth condition” that causes far higher levels of serious disease and disability than previously thought, despite being easy to detect and treat. Two major studies have revealed that hemochromatosis, previously thought to be a low-level health risk, actually quadruples risk of liver disease and doubles the risk of arthritis and frailty in older age groups. It also causes higher risk of diabetes and chronic pain. Deaths from liver cancer in men with the faulty genes were significantly higher than expected, although the number was low. The research, led by a group from the University of Exeter in the UK, with the University of Connecticut and the U.S. National Institute on Aging (NIA) is published in The BMJ and The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences.

Hemochromatosis causes people to absorb too much iron from their diet. It accumulates around the body over time, damaging many organs and eventually causing disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that one million Americans have hereditary hemochromatosis. Symptoms can include excessive tiredness plus muscle and joint pains, and these symptoms are often misdiagnosed as signs of aging. The researchers found that in men of European ancestry in Britain, 1.6 percent of all hip replacements and 5.8 percent of all liver cancers occurred in those with two hemochromatosis mutations.
The research suggests that routine screening may be needed for people at risk of hemochromatosis. Blood tests for iron and genetic testing are simple and cost-effective. The condition is easily treated by withdrawing blood. Treatment initially involves regular blood drawings, known as a venesection. This is usually done once every few weeks. When iron levels are lower, this reduces to around four times annually. This is known as maintenance therapy. Blood can be donated once the patient’s iron levels reach this stage.

Professor David Melzer, MBChB, MSc, PhD, FGSA, from the University of Exeter and University of Connecticut, who led the research, said: “The hemochromatosis mutations were thought to only rarely cause health problems. We’ve shown that hereditary hemochromatosis is actually a much more common and stealth disease, which is also seen in older people. We now need to test ways to screen and diagnose hemochromatosis earlier. It’s exciting to think that better care might prevent so much unnecessary disease.”

The team analyzed data from 2,890 people in Britain with the two genetic mutations (HFE C282Y). This group comprised approximately 10 times more people than the largest, previous study in this field. Most cases of hemochromatosis are diagnosed by a genetic test revealing the two genetic mutations. Of this group, one in five men and one in 10 women developed additional diseases, compared to those without mutations. The average age of those studied was 63, and the data suggested that even more diseases developed with advancing age. The team found that men and women with the mutations, aged 65 to 70, were much more likely to suffer from frailty and chronic pain and had lower muscle strength. Fourteen people in the study died of liver cancer.

These findings add to a U.S. study across seven health providers which estimated that 50 percent of men and 25 percent of women with the two mutations were diagnosed with hemochromatosis by the end of their lives. Additional work at the CDC showed that nine percent eventually developed severe liver disease.

The CDC has advised everyone with a family health history of hemochromatosis to talk to their doctor about testing for hereditary hemochromatosis. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases advises that health care providers should consider testing people who have severe and continuing fatigue, unexplained cirrhosis, joint pain or arthritis, heart problems, erectile dysfunction, or diabetes, because these health issues may result from hemochromatosis.

---

**TITLE: POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR - RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**

**DEPARTMENT: UC SAN DIEGO, DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSCIENCES**

Study of Latinos - Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging (SOL-INCA) directed by Hector M. González, Ph.D., in the Department of Neurosciences and the Shiley Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at University of California, San Diego is currently seeking a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the field of Population Neurosciences to join our longitudinal research effort in investigating neurocognitive aging and Alzheimer’s disease among diverse Latinos. The SOL-INCA is funded by multiple NIH grants.

This position offers rich opportunities to investigate neurocognitive aging and dementias in the largest study of well-characterized (e.g., MRI, whole genome) middle-aged and older diverse Latinos. The successful candidate will work at the new Altman Clinical Translational Research Institute, which offers a stimulating and multi-disciplinary environment in beautiful La Jolla, California. The fellow will work as part of a team of scientists at UC, San Diego, local institutions (e.g., Salk Institute) and with collaborators from across the US. In addition, the fellow will be eligible for additional research support and mentorship from our new UC San Diego, Alzheimer’s Disease-Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (AD-RCMAR). He or she will be responsible for developing and initiating a high impact, innovative and sustainable research program on neurocognitive aging, mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and dementias. The fellow will have ample opportunities for publication and grant writing in collaboration with the PI and other multidisciplinary team investigators. Applicants should have a background in cognitive science, genomics, epidemiology, neuroimaging, neurosciences, or equivalent combined education and experience.

Spanish fluency or familiarity (spoken and written) are highly desirable but not required. Effective communication and organization skills as well as the ability to work independently and as part of a team are critical for this position. The ideal candidate should be highly motivated, enthusiastic, detail-oriented, and well-versed in quantitative empirical research and field requisite analytical and statistical techniques. Time-management, multitasking and the ability to work under pressure in a fast-paced research program are essential.

Applications and inquiries should be submitted by e-mail to Yugandi Ranaweera (yranaweera@ucsd.edu). Please include your CV, a representative writing sample, a cover letter describing previous research and research interests, as well as 3 references.
February 2019
printed in the U.S.

Call for Abstracts Opens February 1

Share your research with more than 4,000 professionals in gerontology and geriatrics from around the globe.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT BY:
MARCH 14, 2019—AT 11:59 PM EDT

www.geron.org/gsa2019