A new e-book published by GSA provides a primary resource for detailed overviews of the aging process across multiple organisms — from microbes to humans. This seminal publication, "Molecular and Cellular Biology of Aging," is intended as a textbook for emerging scholars of all levels.

Its contents explore how basic aging processes relate to age-related disease, how aging and longevity are subject to both gene-gene and gene-environment interactions, and how greatly increased insight into these relationships can help scholars design rational strategies for intervention.

The lead editors are Jan Vijg, PhD, of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Judith Campisi, PhD, of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; and Gordon J. Lithgow, PhD, of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging.

"Aging research has undergone a revolution in scientific understanding and potential for meaningful intervention in the last two decades," Campisi said. "Consequently, the field is attracting an unprecedented number of students, new postdoctoral fellows, and accomplished scientists working in other fields."

The book is broken down into ten sections — with a total of 34 chapters authored by dozens of the world’s top scholars in the biological sciences.

"This long-awaited textbook provides the first comprehensive description of modern thinking, experimental results, interpretations and controversies in this growing and fast-evolving field. The e-book format will allow frequent updates, making the textbook a unique and perpetually contemporary guide to the field,” Campisi added.

Bornstein to Deliver New Orleans Meeting Keynote

GSA has selected journalist and author David Bornstein as the keynote speaker for this November's Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Bornstein's work focuses on social innovation. He co-authors the “Fixes” column in The New York Times' Opinionator section, which explores and analyzes potential solutions to major social problems. He is the co-founder of the Solutions Journalism Network, which supports journalists who report on constructive responses to social problems.


GSA President Nancy Morrow-Howell, MSW, PhD, said she considers Bornstein “a great thinker and a great speaker,” and selected him as the keynote because his work directly relates to the conference theme.

“His columns, books, and social media postings all relate to finding solutions, to social innovation, to new perspectives on old problems,” she said. “His Solutions Journalism Network is an example of the new lens he can

GSA Releases Comprehensive Textbook on Basic Biology of Aging

bornstein
From the Executive Director

Happy 2016!
(and 2017 … and 2018)

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

You’re probably thinking it’s unusual to wish people a Happy New Year for three consecutive years at the same time. That makes about as much sense as saying that the road from New Orleans to Boston leads through San Francisco, right? Well, if you’re part of the GSA family, you know where I’m going.

At GSA’s recent Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando in November, several members approached me with questions about the upcoming World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, which GSA will host in San Francisco in July 2017. While GSA is the host organization, the event is being conducted on behalf of the International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics (IAGG). I sensed a lot of excitement, but also curiosity about what kind of impact this major event will have on GSA and its members.

If you take a look at the bigger picture, you can see that we are beginning a three-year cycle that concludes with the resumption of GSA’s normal meeting schedule in November 2018. In this first year, GSA will follow standard operating procedures for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting, with abstracts due mid-March and the meeting taking place in mid-November — in New Orleans, as I’m sure you’re aware.

Starting this summer, the path diverges from what GSA members are used to. Abstract submissions for the IAGG World Congress are due July 15 to allow adequate time for peer review and final accept/reject decisions to be made by the first quarter of 2017. The long lead time is typical for World Congresses with attendees from countries requiring visa, etc. The World Congress will take place from July 23 to 27, 2017. GSA has elected to forgo its own Annual Scientific Meeting in 2017 in order to ensure the success of the World Congress. This is a one-time change in GSA’s meeting schedule to accommodate the World Congress.

Members attending the Congress can expect all the networking and research presentation opportunities that a GSA meeting always provides, and more. While GSA volunteer and governance activities will be impacted, we’re taking the appropriate steps to adjust schedules and processes to minimize disruption. GSA’s volunteer leadership, committee work, fellowship opportunities, and meeting program involvement will continue in 2017 but on slightly modified schedules. We then return to our normal meeting schedule for 2018, with abstracts due in mid-March and the meeting taking place in Boston in mid-November.

So from my point of view, the 2017 World Congress in San Francisco is the bridge that takes us between the 2016 meeting in New Orleans and the 2018 meeting in Boston. And it will be a spectacular bridge! GSA’s involvement in the World Congress is a once-in-a-generation event. It’s held in a different region every four years, and it won’t return to the U.S. for another 32 years.

We also expect attendance to be much higher than a typical GSA meeting — likely around 6,000 people. And both the number and prestige of the organizations joining us as co-hosts contribute to the impact the World Congress will have. We are proud to welcome the American Federation for Aging Research, the American Aging Association, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, the American Society on Aging, and the National Council on Aging as co-hosts.

We’ve recently made some enhancements to the World Congress website at www.iagg2017.org. Very soon, we’ll have details about the program tracks, keynote speakers, and the call for abstracts. When you visit the site, be sure to download the available PowerPoint slide to spread awareness of the World Congress in any upcoming presentations you make to the Gerontological community.

So in closing, I wish you all Happy New Year(s)! See you in New Orleans, San Francisco, and Boston.
New Books by Members

- “The Spectrum of Family Caregiving for Adults and Elders with Chronic Illness,” by GSA Fellows Louis Burgio, PhD, and Joe Gaugler PhD, and member Michelle Hilgeman, PhD. Published by Oxford University Press, 2015.
- “Dementia Care: An Evidence-based Approach,” by GSA Fellow Marie Boltz, PhD, and James Galvin, MD. Published by Springer Publishing, 2016.

Members in the News

- On December 2, Mary Carter, PhD, was interviewed for a US News & World Report article on her latest research presented at the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting. The piece was titled “Silent Epidemic: Seniors and Addiction.”
- GSA Member Jeffrey Kaye, MD, was featured in a New York Times article on December 4. The piece, titled “As Aging Population Grows, So Do Robotic Health Aids,” discussed how countries are innovating tools and technology to assist with the world’s growing older adult population.
- A December 3 article in The Bay Area Reporter included quotes from several GSA fellows and members: Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD, Brian de Vries, PhD, Sara Keary, MSW, PhD, Molly Ranahan, MDiv, Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, DrPH, Charles Hoy-Ellis, LCSW, MSW, Hyun-Jun Kim, PhD, and Jie Yang, PhD. The piece, titled “Confab Highlights LGBT Aging Research,” summarized some of the LGBT-focused posters and presentations at the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Colleague Connection

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Kathryn Hyer, PhD

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

Member Spotlight

GSAs’s website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: Xi Chen, PhD

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

Benifield Named Fulbright Scholar

GSA Fellow Lazelle Benifield, PhD, RN, dean of the Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar to study at University College Cork in Ireland for six-months. Benifield is one of two nurses selected in 2015 for this award. She has led the College of Nursing as dean since 2010. She also is a professor, serving as the Parry Endowed Chair, adjunct professor in the College of Medicine, and founding director of the Donald W. Reynolds Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, which is dedicated to developing leaders, educators and researchers in the geriatric nursing field. Her research, teaching, and interprofessional efforts in the Fulbright program will involve projects promoting well-being and improving quality of life for family caregivers and community-dwelling older adults with dementia, as well as building capacity for cross-university faculty and student exchange.

Curran Receives Biomedical Award

The Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development has named Sean P. Curran, PhD, of the University of Southern California’s Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, as the 2015 recipient of the Ewald W. Busse Research Award in the Biomedical Sciences category. He received the award during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development on September 25, 2015. The Busse Award is given once every four years to recognize late junior or mid-career scientists and encourage their continued contributions to aging research. Curran, who joined the Davis School in 2010, researches the mechanisms that balance cellular metabolism with stress adaptation in the quest for healthy aging.

Davies Elected to European Scholar Organization

GSA Fellow Kelvin J. A. Davies, PhD, DSc, of the University of Southern California’s Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, has been elected as a member/fellow of the Academy of Europe (Academia Europaea). The Academy Europaea is an organization of the most prominent, eminent, and influential individual scholars from across the entire continent of Europe. Membership is limited to only 2,600 fellows, 54 of whom currently are winners of the Nobel Prize. This broad assembly of excellence, and the pan-European distribution of their members, drawn from a population of almost 750 million people, make the Academy unique amongst all other European academic institutions. Election to the Academy Europaea follows nomination, exhaustive investigation, and several rounds of voting by committees, the Council, and the entire membership. Election is a personal honor that is a distinct recognition by international peers of personal excellence in scholarship within the European convocation of learned and professional scholars.

GSACoNnect Corner

Below are highlights from recent discussions on the GSA Connect online networking platform. Join the conversation at connect.geron.org! Here’s what members are talking about:

- Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD: “Lastly, at a focus group of long-term HIV survivors yesterday, one of the participants in his ninth decade shared with us that, ’... I don’t just want to live with HIV, I want to thrive with HIV!’”
- Kristen Porter, PhD: “Particularly excited to see Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen on the list given her cutting edge work in LGBT aging which has been an inspiration for my own study and research.”
Science, Policy Meet on Prime Time in “The Age of Aging”

As I was just about to nestle this article to bed, Congress once again was laboring over the difficult choices on the budget, policy riders, and tax extenders. So details on the final National Institutes of Health, geriatric education, and Older Americans Act funding will have to come in my next article.

The roots of this holiday season column lie in what turns out to be a wonderful blur of science, public policy, advocacy, and Hollywood stardust. It started when GSA Public Policy Director Greg O’Neill, PhD, and I, along with some help from Public Policy & Aging Report Editor Rob Hudson, PhD, shaped an idea for a session at the recent GSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, a place where dreams come true. Given that this meeting would be the last prior to next November’s elections, we wanted to have a panel explore “Election 2016: How Should Candidates Better Address Aging Issues?”

Our presenters — David J. Ekerdt, PhD, of the University of Kansas; Robyn I. Stone, PhD, of LeadingAge; and S. Jay Olshansky, PhD, of the University of Illinois, Chicago — were asked to discuss key aging and health issues that the president and Congress will face in 2016 and beyond, and explore relevant and politically viable proposals that a candidate could make part of her or his policy agenda. In part, we wanted to debate how candidates could lure aging voters into their camps. Eric R. Kingson, MPA, PhD, this year’s recipient of GSA’s Donald P. Kent Award and co-director of Social Security Works, served as a responder and asked probing questions to clarify why he or others would want to use the advice of the panel.

Not coincidentally, Kingson is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, so he approached his role with exuberance.

Some sage advice along with some excellent policy ideas came from the panel, including ways to minimize the “greedy geezer” phenomenon through a focus on family values and support for cross generational policies; the need to pay attention to demographics, cultural diversity, and the appeal of public-private partnerships during times of fiscal restraint; and the need for candidates to address head on some of the misinformation that has led the public to see only a crisis ahead as the population ages and not to see the opportunities that are at their disposal.

As Barzalai put it, “The recognition that aging is part of all diseases is not very well established.” But the group contends, why not proceed with a clinical trial to test the theory?
In Kenyon’s lab, they were studying genes in worms. “They found that they could change a single gene in a worm and have that worm live twice as long as normal,” explained Deming.

Lithgow said he believes that they have proof that “aging itself is modifiable. The question now is, is it modifiable in us?”

When researchers studied centenarians, they found that these very old adults were not necessarily living pure lives; in fact, they admitted to smoking, drinking, eating unhealthy foods, and forgoing exercise, just like many of the rest of us do. What makes them age more slowly? Since there is no evidence that duplicating their lifestyles would help us, maybe medications can make us all age like centenarians. As Barzalai put it, “We cannot change your genes, but we can design medications based on our knowledge that will interfere with this pathway and interact, intervene, and delay the effects of aging.”

Barzalai described why they focused on metformin. One study looked at 78,000 obese, unhealthy people with diabetes who were on metformin. Compared to 78,000 non-diabetic controls, there was 17 percent lower mortality in the diabetes group. TAME would look at people age 70 to 80 years old and monitor four conditions: cognitive impairment/Alzheimer’s and other dementias; heart disease; cancer, and stroke. Metformin is widely used, safe, and inexpensive. The trial would be sponsored by the nonprofit American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), not a pharmaceutical company, although the researchers are certainly open to government funding.

Effective Advocacy at Work

The research team headed to Washington to approach U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO), the ranking minority member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. They described their research and asked for her support. She agreed to take their cause to the administration, noting, “If we could get a handle on slowing the aging process, we are talking about a huge economic boon to this country.”

They were ready to approach the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), looking for its blessing on this approach of looking at aging broadly as the target for study. They understood that they needed to convince the FDA to go after the underlying risk factor for chronic disease – aging. “When you go to the FDA, you’re usually going to seek approval for a treatment of a disease. We are seeking approval for treatment of all diseases,” Olshansky said. “This will be the most important medical intervention in the modern era.”

How was all this received by the FDA? The team was pleased that the FDA was open to their idea. FDA staff seemed engaged, impressed, and have been quoted as sounding positive with regard to the potential that TAME has for such a large range of chronic illness, which has never been done before. Some of the researchers thought it went as well as it could have. The FDA did indicate that although it is not yet convinced that the proposed trial design can establish that metformin has an anti-aging effect, the agency recognizes the potential value in a drug that could improve quality of life and survival — whether the indication sought is aging or multiple morbidities — and is not opposed to the idea of a trial. Olshansky left the meeting convinced that FDA had given a green light, contingent on several adjustments to the protocol, which the group is making.

As one can see, these are very heady and exciting times for those involved in this area of research and for those working on other disease specific issues that could benefit from this trial’s results. I do not know much about aging cells besides my own, but I do know when I see effective issue framing, advocacy, and use of the media. What Olshansky and his colleagues were able to do was quite impressive in many respects, not just scientifically. They identified key policy makers in the Executive Branch (FDA) and the Legislative Branch (Senate Special Committee on Aging, McCaskill in particular) and worked to make them active participants and endorsers in the process of moving science forward. They showed them how the work had transformative potential for quality of life and health care costs. They made the case for the value of the work that needs to be done to test the theories that seem so promising. They were a credible source of information, and their messages about their cause were concise, compelling, and consistent during their presentations to each audience. These are key elements of a successful policy initiative.

Geroscience Retakes Spotlight

A next step that you may want be a part of is the “Disease Drivers of Aging: 2016 Advances in Geroscience Summit” taking place in New York from April 13 to 14. This symposium will be co-presented by the Trans-NIH GeroScience Interest Group, GSA, The New York Academy of Sciences, and AFAR. The summit is designed to explore how chronic diseases, such as diabetes, cancer, and HIV/AIDS, influence the rate of aging. This meeting follows on 2013’s “Advances in Geroscience: Impact on Healthspan and Chronic Disease Summit” that identified major “pillars” of biological aging, including metabolic changes, macromolecular damage, epigenetics, inflammation, stress adaptation pathways, proteostasis, and the regenerative capacity of stem cells.

As we look to a productive and prosperous 2016, we acknowledge the frustrations of the past with the budget/appropriations process and the struggle to increase funding levels for aging research. As Steven Austad, PhD, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham recently said, “It’s amazing to me that with the growing number of older people worldwide and our tremendous progress in understanding how it might be medically slowed, funding for aging research has remained flat at best as a percent of biomedical research expenditures.”

However, there is good reason to be optimistic as we move forward both on slowing the aging process and specific disease fronts. Regarding our education and advocacy abilities and growth, we have very good reason to be energized as well.
NIH Funds Target Etiology of Alzheimer’s Disease

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is inviting applications to support innovative research focused on understanding the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying the heterogeneity and multifactorial nature of Alzheimer’s disease (AD), with the potential to create new or challenge existing scientific paradigms. This funding opportunity announcement encourages individual or collaborative research projects that propose innovative approaches to understand the complex biology of AD aimed to fill critical knowledge gaps. The next available due date for letters of intent is February 18. Additional details can be found at 1.usa.gov/1M3lfst.

NIH I-Corps Program Grows, Welcomes Grant Applications

In 2014, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), through its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, sought applications to develop and nurture a national innovation ecosystem that built upon biomedical research to develop technologies, products, and services that benefit society. Toward meeting this objective, the NIH collaborated with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help accelerate the commercialization of early stage biomedical technologies by leveraging the NSF’s established I-Corps team training program. This program focused on educating researchers and technologist on how to translate technologies from the lab into the marketplace. Participating NIH Institutes and Centers included the National Cancer Institute, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Under a new funding opportunity announcement, the NIH is now expanding the program to include additional participating NIH and Centers of Disease Control (CDC) institutes and centers. These agencies will provide administrative supplement awards to a cohort of currently-funded SBIR and STTR Phase I grantees to support entrepreneurial training under the I-Corps at NIH Program. The program is designed to provide three-member project teams with access to instruction and mentoring in order to accelerate the translation of technologies currently being developed with NIH and CDC SBIR and STTR funding. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact NIH or CDC scientific/research staff for more information about the program before applying. The next available application due date is March 21. Materials from an informational webinar regarding the I-Corps at NIH program for 2016 can be viewed at 1.usa.gov/1YaMPNk. The full funding opportunity announcement, including all participating organizations, can be viewed at 1.usa.gov/1NQraSf.
ESPO: Looking Back at 2015 and Looking Ahead to 2016

By Glenna S. Brewster, PhD, FNP-BC, Candace Brown MA, MEd., & Jaime Hughes, MPH, MSW

This article will highlight some of ESPO’s accomplishments during 2015, activities during GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting, how to remain connected after the meeting, and goals for 2016.

New Officers
At GSA’s recent Annual Scientific Meeting, ESPO conducted a runoff election for two positions that received tie votes during the GSA elections held last spring. Kristen E. Porter, PhD, MS, MAc, LAc, JP, is the new chair-elect, and Patricia A. Fletcher, MA, MS, is the new communications chair. Additionally, ESPO’s Executive Committee has appointed Kelly M. Smith, BA, as the new secretary, in accordance with ESPO bylaws. (The previously elected candidate recently stepped down from the position due to other professional commitments.)

2015 Accomplishments
This was a successful year for ESPO. Some of ESPO’s 2015 accomplishments include:

• Launching of the mentor match program, which provides a platform for online mentorship. If you have not yet registered, you can so do on GSA Connect.
• Hosting three webinars. One was held in conjunction with the National Institute on Aging, which focused on post-doctoral opportunities, grant writing, and networking. The links for the recorded webinars are posted at www.geron.org/webinar.

Continuing the ESPO initiated peer review program for non-native English speakers. There was an increase in the number of abstracts submitted and ESPO council members served as blind reviewers.
• Presenting the first ESPO International Task Force travel stipend, which is awarded to an international student.
• Voting for and thus approving the proposed changes to the previous bylaws.
• Record applications for more ESPO volunteer leadership positions
• Having a data blitz for ESPO paper and poster awardees

ESPO at GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting
At the annual meeting, the ESPO-sponsored events and symposia were successfully executed.
• ESPO Breakfast: In addition to the election of officers listed above, travel award recipients and the outgoing senior chair of each committee were acknowledged during the breakfast.

ESPO Lounge: Members made use of the ESPO lounge to network, have meetings, and/or relax in between sessions. Many also won prizes donated by committee members, during the ESPO raffles.
• ESPO Awards Reception: The poster and paper recipients received their awards and each gave a one-minute data-blitz about their work. National Institute on Aging representatives and GSA fellows were present, and ESPO members got the opportunity to network with them after the award presentations.
• ESPO symposia: The group symposia were well-attended and discussed timely and pertinent issues in gerontology. For example, the common thread of the ESPO Behavioral and Social Sciences symposium was making intergenerational relationships between K-12 students and elders a priority to educate the future generations of the realities of aging, and the theme of the ESPO Health Sciences symposium was gero-technology.
• Mentoring Switch: This program was sponsored by the Mentoring Effect. ESPO leaders learned aspects in the art of mentoring as they mentored GSA senior scholars on subjects ranging from student needs to international aging. Participants supported the continuance of this program.

Staying Connected After the Annual Scientific Meeting
Staying in touch throughout the year is the key to building and maintaining solid career connections. If you haven’t done so already, connect with new ESPO and GSA colleagues using social media. This can include connecting with individual members and special interest communities on GSA Connect or reaching out using professional LinkedIn or Twitter profiles. For tips on networking throughout the year, visit the archives of ESPO’s networking webinar held last October. If you are seeking more mentorship, consider joining GSA’s new Mentor Match Program. Finally, stay tuned for the next installment in the ESPO Professional Development Webinar Series.

Looking Ahead to 2016
The Executive Committee is planning to focus on the following initiatives:
• Create an online clearinghouse of professional development resources on ESPO Connect.
• Continue year-round professional development opportunities through programs like Mentor Match and the ESPO Professional Development Webinar Series.
• Increase participation by international ESPO members and encourage participation in programs specifically targeted to international members.
• Increase participation in ESPO volunteer leadership activities.

We encourage all ESPO members to get involved and make a contribution to the growth and success of the organization.
Diverse Attendance
Approximately 3,700 people made their way to Orlando, Florida, for GSA’s 68th Annual Scientific Meeting. Among them, 19 percent came from a total of 44 countries outside the U.S. The program featured more than 425 sessions during the five-day event at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort. Among the most popular presentations were the Presidential Symposia and Policy Series Symposia, which showcased the meeting’s theme, “Aging as a Lifelong Process.”

Unique Events
The keynote address for the President’s Opening Plenary Session was delivered by political scientist and oncologist Ezekiel Emanuel MD, PhD. As a former special advisor for health policy to the White House Office of Management and Budget, Emanuel was a prominent voice advising on federal health care budgets and the Affordable Care Act. In his speech, he forecasted six “megatrends” in American health care: the diffusion of VIP care for the chronically and mentally ill; the expansion of digital medicine and closure of hospitals; the end of insurance companies as we known them; the end of employer-sponsored health insurance; the end of health care inflation; and the evolution of academic health centers.

As a new feature in the 2015 meeting program, attendees had the option to participate in two day-long, themed series of sessions — the Technology Track on November 20 and the Clinical Interventions Track on November 21. The Technology Track sessions focused on aging, technology, and innovation. Its lineup included the release of a major federal report on aging and technology, panel discussions, poster sessions, and networking events, plus the Dolphin Tank — a unique opportunity for participants to pitch an idea for a product or service that will improve the lives of older adults. The Clinical Interventions Track featured the latest research findings to inform clinical practice and care for older adults, and offered up to seven continuing education credits. Participants learned how to enhance patient care, discovered the connection between research and practice, and networked with multidisciplinary experts on aging.

The photographs on the right give more details about these and many other unique events.
Outgoing GSA President Rita Effros handed over the reins to his successor, Nancy Morrow-Howell, at the conclusion of the Donald P. Kent and Robert W. Kleemeier Award lecture session.

Get with the Trend
More than 650 people contributed to the conversation on Twitter using #GSA15, which generated more than 3,000 tweets! Not only were attendees live tweeting scientific sessions, they were also snapping their photos for The Real Story. Attendees shared their personal experiences about the meeting through this unique photo campaign; you can view that album and others on GSA’s Facebook page at facebook.com/geronsociety. In just four days, more than 1,000 unique users engaged with GSA on Facebook. Be sure to like the page and tag yourself in photos if you haven’t done so already. GSA Connect also had an increase in traffic with more than 800 logins during the week of the meeting. Members uploaded their presentations to the meeting community library and enrolled as mentor and mentees in the newly launched Mentor Match.

GSA in the News
GSA issued press passes to more than 40 reporters in Orlando, including representatives from U.S. News & World Report, Kaiser Health News, Next Avenue, The Boston Globe, and several NPR affiliates. Among these press attendees were 18 new and 15 continuing participants in the Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, which GSA organized for the sixth consecutive year in conjunction with New America Media — with support from the Archstone Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, the John A. Hartford Foundation, The Retirement Research Foundation, The SCAN Foundation, and The Silver Century Foundation. Half of the participants in the program represented media outlets with ethnic minority audiences.

Visit www.geron.org/press for links to news articles that resulted from sessions at the meeting. This page will be updated continuously as participants in the Journalists in Aging Fellows Program submit their stories in early 2016.

Looking Ahead
The Call for Abstracts for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting — taking place from November 16 to 20 in New Orleans, Louisiana — is now available on GSA’s website at www.geron.org/abstracts. The theme for this conference will be “New Lens on Aging: Changing Attitudes, Expanding Possibilities.” All abstract submissions must be received by March 15.
The following awards were announced during GSA’s 68th Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL. The Society salutes the outstanding researchers below for their contributions to gerontology and thanks the selection committees for their time and efforts in choosing the recipients.

### Society-Wide

**Senior Service America, Inc., Senior Scholar Award for Research Related to Disadvantaged Older Adults**
- Tetiana P. Shippee, PhD
- University of Minnesota
- “Racial Differences in Nursing Home Residents’ Quality of Life”

**Senior Service America, Inc., Junior Scholar Award for Research Related to Disadvantaged Older Adults**
- Sok An, PhD
- University of Texas at Austin
- “The Effects of Physical Constraint and Community Social Capital on Mental Distress in Older Adults: A Latent Interaction Model”

### Behavioral and Social Sciences Section

**Student Research Award – Dissertation**
- Fan Zhang, PhD
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- “The Effects of Mixed Emotion on Health”

**Student Research Award – Pre-Dissertation**
- Brent Nara, BA
- North Carolina State University
- “Understanding Threat: Daily Anticipatory Coping Strategies in Older Adults”

### Health Sciences Section

**Austin Bloch Award**
- Rachel Deer, PhD
- University of Texas Medical Branch
- “Improvement in Timed Up and Go Speed in Acutely Ill Older Adults after 1-month of Post-Hospitalization Interventions”

**Person-In-Training Award**
- Paolo Mazzola, MD
- University of Milano-Bicocca
- “Risk for Malnutrition and Malnutrition Predict the Occurrence of Post-Operative Delirium in Elderly Patients undergoing Hip Fracture Surgical Repair: A Retrospective Study”

**Research Award**
- Mini E. Jacob, MD, PhD
- Boston University
- “Lifestyle Factors and Hospitalization Days at the End of Life”
2015 awardees

Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section

Carroll L. Estes Award
Margaret Danilovich, PT, DPT, PhD (c)
Northwestern University
“Translating Strong for Life in the Community Care Program”

Outstanding Student Poster Award
Jeanine Yonashiro-Cho, MS
University of Southern California
“Characteristics of Intentional Injuries among Older Adults Presenting to Emergency Departments”

Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization

Interdisciplinary Paper Award
Yeon Jin Choi, MSW
Boston College
“Neighborhood Safety, Social Cohesion, and Psychological Well-Being of Older Adults”

Poster Award
Alan Rathbun, PhD
University of Maryland School of Medicine
“The Impact of Depression on Physical Performance Following Hip Fracture”

Poster Award
Rong Fu, MS
Purdue University
“Early Parental Loss and Cognitive Impairment in Old Age: Is Participating in Leisure Activities a Pathway?”

Poster Award
Winnie Sun, PhD
University of Toronto
“The Importance of Therapeutic Self-Care in Promoting the Safety of Older Adults in Home Care”

Poster Award
Elizabeth Meredith Rhea, PhD
University of Washington
“Alternative to Blood Brain Barrier Transport: Intranasal Insulin Administration”

Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee Student Poster Award
Catherine Perez, MS
University of Southern California
“Looking Beyond the Hispanic Paradox: Health Differences by Hispanic Ethnicity”

Poster Award
Catherine Perez, MS
University of Southern California
“Looking Beyond the Hispanic Paradox: Health Differences by Hispanic Ethnicity”

Douglas Holmes Emerging Scholar Paper Award
Margaret Danilovich, PT, DPT, PhD (c)
Northwestern University
“Translating Strong for Life in the Community Care Program”

For information on how to apply for GSA’s awards, visit www.geron.org/membership/awards.
Middle Georgia State University Approved for IT and Nursing Graduate Programs

Middle Georgia State University has been authorized by its regional accrediting agency to admit and register students for its new graduate programs. At the annual meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in Houston, Texas, SACSCOC granted Middle Georgia State University permission to take the next step in offering two master’s degrees. The Master of Science in Information Technology has tracks in information security/digital forensics and health informatics. The Master of Science in Nursing prepares nurse practitioners in adult/gerontology and acute care. Both degrees are offered completely online. In spring 2015, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved a mission change for the recently consolidated institution, effective July 1, 2015. It concurrently gave permission for Middle Georgia State University to offer the two degrees.

$1.1 Million Gift Transforms Duke’s Family Support Program

The Duke Family Support Program has received a $1.1 million anonymous donation to transform the scope and reach of Early-Stage Alzheimer’s Community Programs. Former GSA President Lisa Gwyther, MSW, founder and director of the program, said, “This gift will expand the scope, depth, breadth and reach of our Alzheimer’s services.” Under the leadership of GSA member Bobbi Matchar, MHA, MSW, the Early-Stage Alzheimer’s Community Program has been growing since the first program was offered in the spring of 2012. It currently includes an eight-week education and support group, a monthly social gathering for graduates of the eight-week group, a monthly arts program in partnership with the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke, and direct links to the Duke Bryan Alzheimer’s Disease Center Support Group and Jewish Family Services’ Memory Café. The new gift will support individuals and families who live with neurocognitive diseases; sustain, enrich, and expand education and support programs for individuals with new and progressing early-stage Alzheimer’s disease and their families; expand collaborative partnerships beyond continuing early-stage Alzheimer’s partnerships with the Alzheimer’s Association, the Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish Family Services, Duke’s Bryan Alzheimer’s Disease Center and Clinic, and the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke; develop innovative strategies to prepare other professionals and communities outside of Durham to offer quality information and support to individuals and families; and expand programs for people who live with mild cognitive impairment and for people with early-stage dementia who live alone.

GSA Announces NHCGNE Relocation

GSA has announced that the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) will relocate to the Hartford Institute of Geriatric Nursing (HIGN) at the New York University College of Nursing (NYUCN), effective January 1. This John A. Hartford Foundation grant-supported program has been based at GSA since 2012, focusing on preparing new academic gerontological nursing leaders and enhancing the gerontological nursing expertise of faculty.

“We thank GSA for our partnership and look forward to ongoing collaboration,” said NHCGNE Executive Director J Taylor Harden, PhD, RN, FAAN. “We are proud of our collective accomplishments, including our 281 pre and post-doctoral gerontology nurses supported since 2000.”

During its time at GSA, the Center’s membership has increased to 60 institutions working collaboratively to promote quality nursing care to older adults. In order to fully benefit from the forward momentum of the growing National Hartford Center membership and synergy with the mission of the HIGN, the John A. Hartford Foundation and the NHCGNE Executive Committee decided to move the grant’s operations.

“The Society has been honored to serve as the multi-disciplinary home for the NHCGNE,” said GSA Executive Director and CEO James Appleby, BSPharm, MPH. “GSA recognizes the wonderful work that has been accomplished toward the grant’s stated goals and looks forward to continuing its longstanding collaboration with the John A. Hartford Foundation.”

The HIGN was founded in 1996 at the NYUCN with the goal of shaping the quality of health care older Americans receive by promoting the highest level of geriatric nursing competence. The HIGN has held steadfast through the years in its efforts to achieve excellence in its core competencies dedicated to meeting its goals: practice, research, education, and advocacy/policy.

“The missions of the HIGN and the NHCGNE are very complementary, and we very much look forward to this partnership which will enable us all to positively impact the quality of health and life for even more older adults,” said HIGN Executive Director Tara A. Cortes, PhD, RN, FAAN.

The NYUCN is a nationally recognized leader in nurse education and innovative research in the field of nursing science. Its distinguished faculty and researchers ensure that tomorrow’s nurses and scientists are ready to advance the nursing profession as interprofessional health care team leaders, as clinicians, and as educators.

“The NYU College of Nursing has long been a leader in geriatric nursing and we are thrilled to partner with the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence to further increase the capacity of nurses and health professionals to address the growing need for the highest quality of life for older adults,” said NYUCN Dean Eileen M. Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN.

“The richness that will come about as a result of this partnership will teach students, embrace consumers, and lead the way in geriatric research and care.”
WHO Report Examines Aging Globally

The number of people over the age of 60 is expected to double by 2050 and will require radical societal change, according to a new report released by the World Health Organization (WHO). The “World Report on Ageing and Health 2015” finds that there is little evidence that the added years of life are being experienced in better health than was the case for previous generations at the same age. “Unfortunately, 70 does not yet appear to be the new 60,” said John Beard, director of the Department of Ageing and Life Course at WHO. “But it could be. And it should be.” This report highlights three key areas for action that will require a fundamental shift in the way society thinks about aging and older people. The first is to make the places people live in much more friendly to older adults. Examples can be found in WHO’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities that currently comprises more than 280 members in 33 countries. Second is realigning health systems to the needs of older people. The report states that this will require a shift from systems that are designed around curing acute disease, to systems that can provide ongoing care for the chronic conditions that are more prevalent in older age. Initiatives that have already proved successful can be expanded and introduced in other countries. Lastly, governments also need to develop long-term care systems that can reduce inappropriate use of acute health services and ensure people live their last years with dignity. Families will need support to provide care, freeing up women, who are often the main caregivers for older family members, to play broader roles in society. The full report can be accessed at who.int/ageing/events/world-report-2015-launch/en/.

World Bank Report Highlights Labor Force Decline in East Asia

East Asia is aging faster than any other region in history, and some middle-income and wealthier economies could lose as much as 15 percent of their working-age population by 2040, according to a new World Bank report. The report, “Live Long and Prosper: Aging in East Asia and Pacific,” finds that 36 percent of the world’s population aged 65 and over, or 211 million people, live in East Asia — the largest share among all regions. By 2040, the graying of the population could shrink the number of working-age adults by more than 15 percent in Korea and more than 10 percent in China, Thailand, and Japan. In China alone, that would translate into a net loss of 90 million workers. The rapid pace and sheer scale of aging in East Asia raises policy challenges, economic and fiscal pressures, and social risks. Without reforms, for example, pension spending in the region is projected to increase by eight to 10 percent of gross domestic product by 2070. Meanwhile, most East Asian health systems aren’t prepared for age-related spending, as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses could account for 85 percent of all disease burdens by 2030. In addition, today’s older population is less likely than previous generations to have adequate family support. The report examines how aging may affect the drivers of economic growth in the region, as well as patterns of public spending. It reviews current policies and provides recommendations on how countries with diverse demographics can address challenges in the labor market, social security systems, and health and long-term care. It also looks at how older people currently live, work and retire across the region. Rapid aging in East Asia is partly a result of the region’s pace of economic development in recent decades, the report said. Higher incomes and better education have led to steady increases in life expectancy, and have been accompanied by sharp declines in fertility rates, with a growing number of countries now well below replacement levels. As a result, by 2060, one in five of the oldest countries in the world will be in East Asia, compared with just one in 25 in 2010. East Asia has several advantages in addressing aging. East Asians already work longer than their counterparts in other regions. They have high savings rates across all ages, rapidly rising education achievements, and social security systems with fewer costly legacy entitlements. The report recommends a range of pressing reforms and can be found at bit.ly/1TBkVnY.

Continued from page 1 – GSA Releases Textbook on Basic Biology of Aging

The book begins with an introduction to the science of aging, with a strong focus on its relevance to aging populations and its biological foundations in the evolutionary history of life. It then discusses what is known about aging in intact (mostly model) organisms, and proceeds to focus on ever-finer components of intact organisms: the aging of specific tissues, the cellular bases of aging, age-related changes in subcellular compartments, and finally the aging of biological macromolecules, such as lipids, proteins, and DNA. The final pages offer chapters on the systems biology of aging and possible interventions. Throughout the text, the authors pay special attention to the aging-disease relationship and various theories of aging. “While not neglecting necessary details, this book focuses on providing insights from basic principles and common characteristics of aging across species,” the lead authors state in their introduction. “We firmly believe that deep insight and understanding of solid principles are essential for ultimately developing interventions that might enable us to view aging as we now view disease — that is, as a condition amenable to treatment.” “Molecular and Cellular Biology of Aging” is available for download at www.geron.org/online-store. The book can be purchased in its entirety or by individual chapter; GSA members are eligible for discounts for both options.
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